

## Palestinians, Israeli soldiers clash in Gaza Strip

KHAN YUNIS (AFP) — Palestinian youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers who responded by firing tear gas in clashes outside a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday. Around 200 Palestinians threw stones at three Israeli army jeeps driving outside the settlement of Ganne Tal near the Palestinian town of Khan Yunis in the central Gaza Strip, witnesses said. The soldiers fired back with tear gas and the two sides traded volleys for around an hour in the sand dunes between the settlement and the town before the protest died down, the witnesses said. A few Palestinians overcame by gas were taken to hospital but were quickly released, hospital sources in Khan Yunis said. The same location had been the site of smaller clashes the previous day in which no one was injured.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تيمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

## Consortium strikes oil in Libya

SEOUL (AFP) — A consortium of South Korean, British and Italian firms has struck oil in Libya, with the discovery of a field with an estimated one billion barrels of crude, the state-owned Korea Petroleum Development Corporation (PEDCO) said Wednesday. The oil reservoir was discovered in drilling in Libya's NC 174 mining district, 750 kilometres south of Tripoli, a PEDCO spokesman said. South Korea has a one third stake in the consortium, with Britain's Lasso Co. and Italy's Agip Co. each holding an equal share. The Korean share is split up among five firms, including PEDCO, Hyundai and Daewoo. The discovery is believed to be the biggest ever made by a consortium participated by South Korean firms, PEDCO said. Production from the field is expected to begin in early 1999.

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## Saddam expels U.S. members of U.N. disarmament commission

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein decided Wednesday to expel U.S. members of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq and barred them from the country, the official news agency INA announced.

President Saddam stopped short of imposing a freeze on all cooperation with UNSCOM but the move was still expected to trigger a crisis with the U.N. Security Council.

Any U.S. members of the commission posted in Iraq will have a week to leave the country, starting from the date that the U.N. Security Council is informed of Baghdad's decision, INA said.

At the United Nations, Iraq's Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun said he had handed a letter to the Security Council barring U.S. nationals from the country.

The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) chaired by President Saddam decided that Baghdad would "no longer deal with American nationals within UNSCOM," the agency said.

The decision would stay in effect "until the U.S. reconsiders its unjust policies and negative attitude toward the Iraqi people as well as its spy-

ing activities and interference in the internal affairs of Iraq," UNSCOM, contacted by Agence France Presse, declined to give the number of Americans in Baghdad but an informed Western source said there were currently around six.

The RCC also called on UNSCOM to halt overflights of Iraq by a U2 spy plane belonging to the U.S. and to replace it with an airplane of another country.

But Iraq would "continue to cooperate in a constructive manner with UNSCOM while respecting the sovereignty, national security and dignity of Iraq," the RCC said in a statement quoted by INA. Baghdad holds the U.S. responsible for prolonging the U.N. sanctions which have been in force since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The sanctions can only be lifted once UNSCOM certifies that it has eliminated Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, under the ceasefire terms of the 1991 Gulf war which evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Iraq accuses UNSCOM, whose deputy chairman is American Charles Duelfer, of spying for the U.S.

The RCC decided on the expulsion after reviewing a

recommendation from the Iraqi parliament for a break with UNSCOM until the Security Council gives an assurance that the sanctions will soon be lifted.

The Iraqi threat came six days after a Security Council resolution to impose new sanctions on Baghdad if its blocks the work of UNSCOM, after a number of incidents in which inspectors were barred from suspected arms sites in Iraq.

The Security Council decided in resolution 1134 passed last Thursday to impose a travel ban on Iraqi officials who continue to block UNSCOM inspections.

Mr. Hamdoun warned earlier Wednesday that Iraq would not accept the status quo on sanctions and was ready to face up to a confrontation.

"Iraq has no interest whatsoever in any confrontation... but if confrontation is required by other parties and the Security Council, then Iraq will have to face it," he said.

"I don't think Iraq is interested in any further confrontation or a new wave of cruise missiles," Mr. Hamdoun told BBC Radio, referring to past retaliatory attacks by the United States.

"But what we can not

### UNSCOM temporarily suspends operations in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Wednesday announced the temporary suspension of all its operations in Iraq.

UNSCOM Chairman Richard Butler made the announcement at a news conference here after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein decided to ban from Iraq U.S. nationals with the Special Commission, which is responsible for Iraqi disarmament.

"I have decided to suspend all operations of UNSCOM in Iraq," Mr. Butler said, but added that he hoped that the move would be temporary. He also announced that he was suspending a planned trip to Baghdad from Nov. 7 to Nov. 11. Mr. Butler had been due to discuss Iraqi disarmament with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

accept is this endless status of having no idea about when the sanctions will be lifted."

Mr. Hamdoun's U.S. counterpart at the U.N., Bill Richardson, warned that Baghdad would face "grave consequences from the international community" if it went ahead with a freeze in cooperation with UNSCOM.

"Again Iraq continues to threaten and show patterns of violating even the latest Security Council resolutions," Mr. Richardson said.

Russia and France, which have taken a milder stand together Iraq and both abstained from voting on resolution 1134, warned Tuesday that Iraq would pay a heavy price for any break

with UNSCOM.

Paris made the "strongest representations" to Iraqi authorities to warn of "the risks involved in ending cooperation," which Moscow said was "the only certain and realistic way of ensuring sanctions against Iraq are lifted."

A UNSCOM official in Baghdad, Alan Dacey, said before the RCC decision that the commission's Chairman Richard Butler, an Australian, was to hold talks with Iraqi officials on a visit from Nov. 7-11.

It was unclear if the visit would go ahead.

## Congress approves \$225m in aid to Kingdom for '98

By Caroline Faraj  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees have approved a sum of \$225 million in aid to Jordan to be included in the 1998 fiscal budget, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher announced Wednesday.

Dr. Muasher said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i that the two committees decided that \$150 million of the amount will be disbursed in the form of economic aid and \$75 million in military assistance to the Kingdom.

The U.S. administration had submitted to the two Houses of Congress a proposal for allocating \$175 million in aid to Jordan of which \$100 million to be deducted from American aid to Egypt

and Israel equally. This was approved last June as part of the "Peace and Stability Fund" while \$75 million will be considered as the normal U.S. economic and military aid to Jordan.

Dr. Muasher said that the Congress' decision is still to be approved by U.S. President Bill Clinton before it can be implemented though this is a normal routine procedure now that the Congress' approval was secured.

Describing the Congress' approval as a very significant development, Dr. Muasher said that the favourable decision crowned the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan and it is a show of appreciation of Jordan's policies reflecting the Kingdom's credibility and the respect it enjoys in the U.S.

Dr. Muasher expressed hope that the Congress' deci-

sion will become an annual practice in the same manner in which the U.S. earmarks its annual aid to Egypt and Israel from its fiscal budget.

In a statement after passing the decision Sonny Callahan, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Appropriations Committee, lauded Jordan's policies stressing the need for continued U.S. economic and political backing for the Kingdom to enable it to pursue its distinguished role in the Middle East peace process.

Normally the U.S. administration proposes higher aid allocations than the amounts approved by Congress. This decision which approved an additional \$50 million to the amounts requested by the U.S. administration is considered a remarkable development and a clear manifestation of the Congress' support for Jordan.

## Crown Prince inspects northern water development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday conducted a field trip to inspect a number of water development projects in the northern region.

While visiting the King Abdullah Canal development and maintenance project, the Prince stressed the importance of water project development to maximise water resource benefits and

the extension of adequate water services to the people.

The Crown Prince noted that the King Abdullah water project's importance lies in its capacity to pump water, through modern technology, to more than 15,000 farmers distributed over 3,000 agricultural units in the Jordan Valley.

Funded by the European Union and Germany, and

costing JD 12-million, work on the project initiated by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will reach completion within the next two months.

Meanwhile, Prince Hassan paid a visit to several formations and units of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division, where the Prince was briefed on the activities and duties of the division.

## Primakov off to Egypt after concluding talks on peace process, bilateral relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov on Wednesday left for Cairo after concluding a working visit to Jordan in the course of his tour which so far took him to Syria, Israel and the Palestine self-rule areas.

During his visit to Jordan, Mr. Primakov was received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Foreign Minister Faysal Tarawneh covering bilateral issues and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Tarawneh and other officials were at the airport to bid Mr. Primakov farewell upon his departure.

Prospects for Jordanian-Russian cooperation in economic fields and launching joint ventures were among the main topics discussed by Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Primakov on Tuesday evening in Amman.

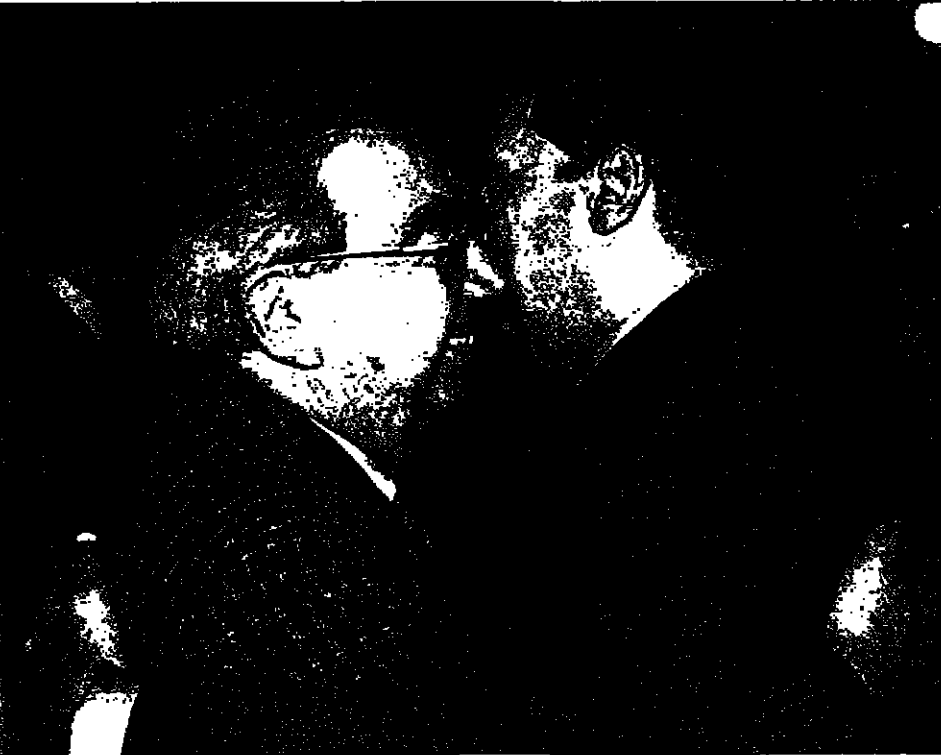
Prime Hassan also discussed with the Russian minister efforts intended to put the peace process back on track, transcending the pre-

sent obstacles in the path of the peace process and the need for exerting efforts to push it forward leading to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace that can guarantee the rights of all parties.

Mr. Primakov was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Prince Hassan and attended by Dr. Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, Dr. Tarawneh, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki and Jordan's ambassador to Russia, Khalidun Al Zaher, as well as the Russian delegation.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi Wednesday denied reports claiming that Mr. Primakov has conveyed to the Jordanian leaders that the Israeli military establishment was exercising pressure on the government to authorise a new attack against Hizbollah in southern Lebanon.

Dr. Mutawi, who is also the official Jordanian spokesperson, said no spokesman and no Jordanian official has made such a statement. But he noted that the Jor-



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa (right) welcomes his Russian counterpart Yevgeny Primakov upon his arrival at Cairo Wednesday for a 24-hour visit as he continues his week-long tour to reassert Moscow's role as a Middle East peace broker (AFP photo)

danian and Russian sides have, through their talks, expressed concern over the

deteriorating security situation in southern Lebanon resulting from Israel's air

raids on Lebanese positions and over the stalled peace process.

## Israel identifies 5th bomber from recent suicide attacks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli security officials have identified the last of five suicide bombers who conducted two attacks in Jerusalem in July and September, killing 21 Israelis, Israel Radio said Wednesday.

Israel's internal intelligence service, Shin Bet, named the fifth bomber as Khalil Ibrahim Sherif, a Hamas member from the West Bank town of Nablus, the radio said.

Sharif, a student at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah, had been in hiding since May 1996, when he was accused by Israel of involvement in the shooting death of a Jewish religious student near the West Bank settlement of Beit El, the radio said.

Palestinian police in the self-rule town of Nablus assisted Israeli officials in the investigation by summoning Sharif's father to hospital to give blood for

Israel to compare with genetic tests from the bomber's remains, said Sharif's uncle.

Israeli security officials using genetic testing had identified in late September the four other bombers in the attacks as Palestinians from Asira Shamaliya, a village just outside Nablus.

Sharif's father was again summoned by the Palestinian police on Tuesday and informed that his son had been identified as the fifth bomber, said the uncle, Fathi Sharif.

"But they haven't shown us any proof that Khalil committed the bombing. If their claim is true, they must give us his body," he told Agence France Presse.

Relatives of the other four identified bombers, who live in an area under Israeli security control, have raised an appeal to the Israeli supreme court to stop the demolition of their

homes by the army. Hamas claimed responsibility for the two suicide bombings.

Afterwards Israel demanded that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) crack down on Islamists and uproot Hamas from areas under its control.

The PNA resisted the pressure until it was proven the bombers came from the West Bank and not from abroad as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had insisted.

His security forces have since arrested 80 Hamas members and closed down 16 Hamas-run institutions.

But Mr. Netanyahu accused the Palestinians this week of slacking off in the crackdown against militants, saying the PNA must launch a serious offensive before there can be any progress in the peace process.



By Chafia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the Nov. 4 elections race heats up, the situation in the southern district of Karak remains unpredictable, despite the tribal affiliations that dominate the political arena there.

Observers still believe that candidates from three major tribes that nominated one contestant each, are the clear

front-runners for the seven Muslim and two Christian seats allocated to the southern district of 99,146 registered voters.

Khaled Tarawneh of the 6,500-vote-strong Tarawneh tribe, Ayed Adaleh of the 6,000-vote-strong Ghassassneh tribe, and Riyad Sarairah of the 4,000-vote-strong Sarairah tribe, are the only candidates of their respective tribes, making their chances stronger than candidates from other major tribes that have nominated more than one candidate each, threatening to split their vote banks.

Karak which has 49 candidates competing, is one of the

country's over-represented districts of the Kingdom, with roughly one seat per every 10,000 voters, compared to Amman, with about 20,000 voters per seat.

The Majali clan, one of the most influential tribes in Karak, failed to agree on a single candidate and four of its members are running. Those are: Abdul Hadi Majali, Amjad Majali, Majed Majali and Rakan Majali.

Abdul Hadi Majali, the Secretary General of the National Constitutional Party (NCP), and Amjad Majali, a former ambassador, are tipped by observers to capture two of the seats allocated to Karak,

because they managed to garner votes from across the tribal and political boundaries.

Abdul Hadi Majali, who won 3,871 votes in the 1993 elections is considered by many as a favourite by virtue of his experience in different public posts and in the political arena.

"Many other candidates are also counting on their personal reputation to gather votes from beyond their own clans," a Karak observer told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The observer added that "tribal affiliations are known factors in this game, but there are also many other variables such as promises made to

candidates to elect them which will only be clear on the day of the elections."

Other strong candidates tipped by the observers are Ahmad Abu Amr, Mohammad Amr, Jamil Hshoush, Dhwayye' Mahadeen and Mousa Ma'aytah.

Because of the large number of candidates, observers did not rule out the possibility that some of those considered to be weak candidates could still win on election day.

Analysts differed on the chances of Riyad Hroub, the publisher of Arab Al Yom daily newspaper and founder of the popular Shihan weekly tabloid. Some say that Dr.

Hroub, has built a solid reputation through his weekly and stands a good chance in the elections.

Others, however, say that his chances are not as great as other candidates with strong tribal support.

As for the two Christian seats allocated to the southern district, observers favour incumbent Nazih Ammarin, who won with 1,073 votes in the 1993 elections.

They also tipped former deputy in the 11th parliament (1989-1993) Abdullah Zureikat and Makram Qsous as runners-up for the second seat, provided that all the other three candidates from

the Hijazeen tribe continued the race.

The two women running for the southern district, Hafitha Ma'aytah and Sibham Bayaidah are not expected to win, but their mere nomination is seen by women activists in the Kingdom as an achievement on its own.

Pledges by Karak candidates are not different from other parts of the country. They include fighting against poverty and unemployment, more seats for students at universities, lifting the U.N. blockade on Iraq, protecting women's rights and fighting corruption and favouritism.

According to one observer, people there "are the most enthusiastic voters compared to the rest of the Kingdom's constituencies."

"Because of the tribal domination in this district, people are rushing to get their voting cards in support of their candidates," Eid Abu Qudairi told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

He said that 90 per cent of the voting cards in Karak have already been distributed.

Al Ra'i correspondent Mohammad Khawaldeh contributed to this story.



## Lebanon's interior minister sees 'hand of Israel' in Beirut bombings

### Top-level meeting convened to discuss incident

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Interior Minister Michel Murr accused Israel Wednesday of being behind two bomb attacks in Beirut in the past 24 hours.

Interior Minister Murr told reporters here that the "hand of Israel is visible" in the attacks and that there exists in Lebanon "a network of Israeli agents charged with carrying out destabilising actions."

He said security measures in Beirut will be increased "even if that means a certain inconvenience for residents," adding that security forces in the capital would be "quintupled."

Mr. Murr convened an urgent top-level meeting on Wednesday of Lebanon's Central Security Council, comprising senior army, police and intelligence officials, to coordinate efforts to track down the authors of Tuesday's unclaimed blasts at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and a central bus station.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Adnan Addoum warned that those behind the bombings, which caused damage but no casualties, would soon be caught and "severely punished."

An explosion ripped through Beirut's main Charles Helou bus station on Tuesday evening, sparking panic among scores of passengers and staff in the building.

The attack followed a blast in the early hours of Tuesday morning at AUB — the first attack on a foreign institution here for at least four years.

The AUB president insisted Wednesday he would not cancel plans to live in the Lebanese capital despite the bomb attack on the campus.

John Waterbury, an American, said after talks with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri that the unclaimed attack on AUB in the early hours of Tuesday morning "will not make me change my plans."

Police said unidentified attackers riding a motorcycle hurled an explosive device on to the AUB campus, and that it detonated between two buildings housing teachers and their families.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, and police have been unable to establish whether the incidents are linked.

The question of who benefited from the attacks dominated several Lebanese newspapers Wednesday, with anti-U.S. sentiment and efforts to destabilise Lebanon's economic recovery among the wide range of motives given credence.

The Al Safir daily said the attack against the AUB had caused "definite unease" in Washington.

The explosion occurred several hours after a reception at the university at which Mr. Waterbury, who lives in the U.S., announced he would soon be taking up residence in Beirut.

His visit to Lebanon came just three months after U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced the lifting of a 12-year ban on U.S. citizens travelling to Lebanon. The State Department has said it continues to consider the country "dangerous" for Americans.

No AUB president has served his term in Lebanon since the assassination on campus of President Malcolm Kerr in 1984. The travel ban was imposed the following year after the hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut.

Al Nahar daily said that "no nationalist or Islamic organisation, nor Syria, has any interest of any kind" in an attack on the American University.

Syria and Lebanon have been linked by a friendship accord since the end of the civil war. Damascus maintains 35,000 troops in Lebanon and dominates political affairs in the country.



Palestinian journalist Khaled Amayreh describes the torture inflicted in Palestinian jails during an interview following his release from a two-day detention by Palestinian security forces in Hebron on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

## Palestinian journalist says he was harassed in Palestinian authority jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian journalist said on Wednesday that Palestinian Preventive Security (PPS) forces tried to bully him into "complete psychological surrender" during a two-day detention over his report on torture in Palestinian prisons.

Khaled Amayreh, released from a Jericho jail on Tuesday, said West Bank PPS chief Jibril Rajoub had threatened to have him shot dead — a charge that Col. Rajoub vehemently denied.

Hebron-based Amayreh, 41, said it was the second time in seven months he had been harassed by PPS forces for his work.

"Mr. Rajoub launched a very vociferous tirade against me," Mr. Amayreh told Reuters. "Saying I was a Jordanian collaborator, insane, a scoundrel, all sorts of things."

"He said also he would order people to shoot me dead."

Asked to respond to the charges, Col. Rajoub, top Palestinian security official in the West Bank, called Mr. Amayreh an "abject liar" with "psychological problems."

"He was interrogated because he published a story against some of our officers. The story was denied by the people who were named by him," Col. Rajoub told Reuters.

"I think we had a right to interrogate him and I think we had the right to send him to court," Col. Rajoub said.

Mr. Amayreh's arrest was protested by human rights activists as a violation of a 1995 Palestinian Press Law.

He said he was held in solitary confinement and barred from contacting his family or a lawyer. "They wanted to actually bully me into just complete psychological surrender," he said.

Mr. Amayreh is an independent Islamist journalist who writes in English for the Middle East International Journal, Saudi Arabia's Arab News and the Kuwaiti News Agency and in Arabic for various regional newspapers.

He was arrested after the publication of an article in the Israeli-Arab Islamist newspaper, Saut Al Haq W'al Huria, on the torture of Hamas activists by the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

Palestinian security forces, under pressure from Israel and the United States, arrested Hamas activists following suicide attacks that killed 24 Israelis between March and September.

Palestinian and international human rights organisations have repeatedly criticised the PNA for human rights violations and unlawful detentions.

## Israel arrests PLC member for driving stolen car

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli police have arrested a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) for driving a car which had been stolen in Israel, police said Wednesday.

Police stopped Musa Abu Sabha, 44, Tuesday night as he drove in a Mercedes through the Erez Crossing on his way from Israel into the Gaza Strip, on suspicion that he was trying to smuggle the vehicle into Gaza, police said.

"In checking, the police discovered the car had been stolen on Monday from Jerusalem," a police spokeswoman said. "The suspect was arrested and taken for questioning."

Mr. Sabha, a council representative from the West Bank town of Hebron who holds special VIP status allowing him to travel inside Israel, was transferred to Jerusalem on Wednesday for investigation, police said.

A spokesman for the council said he had no knowledge of PLC member Sabha's arrest.

An Israeli official in a security liaison with the Palestinians in Gaza said the Palestinian National Authority had made no complaint in the matter.

## Levy will head to Washington but mandate unclear — reports

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will leave late this week or early next week for high-level talks in Washington with U.S. and Palestinian officials, Israeli radio reported Wednesday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed the stalled peace process for more than six hours with his senior ministers Wednesday but announced no timetable for Mr. Levy to hold the Washington talks, which should have begun this week.

A communiqué issued following the meeting of Mr. Netanyahu's inner security cabinet said the ministers had agreed to "advance" lower-

level negotiations on issues left over from interim peace accords.

These concerned the opening of a Palestinian airport, seaport and industrial zone in the Gaza Strip and the establishment of "safe passage" corridors between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also said Israel would "continue its efforts" to launch negotiations on a final peace settlement with the Palestinians "and the necessary conditions for doing so."

"In keeping with this principle, Israel will discuss those issues which the sides had agreed to deal with at the [Washington] meeting," the statement said. This was an indirect reference to the two

central issues which Israel had agreed to discuss when Mr. Levy, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Palestinian National Authority negotiator Mahmoud Abbas met last month in New York — settlement building in occupied territories and overdue troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

The communiqué gave no timetable for a new round of talks between Mr. Levy, Ms. Albright and Mr. Abbas.

But foreign ministry officials told Israel public and army radios that Mr. Levy had decided "in principle" to head to Washington late this week or early next week for the meeting.

## U.N. to hold workshop for radio programming on youth, population and development

AMMAN (UNIS) — The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are organising a four-day regional workshop on Radio Programming for Youth, Population and Development from Nov. 3 to 6 at Amman's Amra Hotel.

Held under the patronage of Minister of Information Samir Mutawi the workshop aims to raise awareness among the public of the reproductive and sexual health of young people. It seeks to initiate and main-

tain an information campaign targeting young people in Arab countries through the medium of radio.

The short-term objective of the workshop is to strengthen and develop a regional and national capacity for the dissemination of information on youth, population and development issues through the training of a core of young broadcasters from the region.

Participants will take part in a substantive briefing on population issues presented by experts in UNFPA's Country

Support Team in Jordan (CST), followed by hands-on training on how to research and develop culturally sensitive and country-tailored radio programmes on subjects related to the role of youth in population and development trends. These programmes will be researched, developed, produced and broadcast in collaboration with United Nations Radio as exchange programmes among participating broadcast organisations in the Arab region.

## Iraqi Kurd militia says Turks used napalm

ISTANBUL (R) — A Kurdish faction said Turkish warplanes had used cluster bombs and napalm to attack its positions in northern Iraq, in the third air raid in a week.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said in a statement faxed to Reuters on Wednesday that two Turkish jets used the anti-personnel weapons in an attack at 4:15 p.m. local time on Tuesday near the town of Shaqlawa, east of the regional capital Erbil.

"The use of such lethal weapons marks a serious escalation in Turkey's aggression against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan," the PUK said.

The report comes amid a general breakdown of last week's ceasefire between the

PUK and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), now closely aligned with Turkey.

An official at Turkish military headquarters said he had no information on any such attacks.

No other officials were available to comment on the claim, which coincided with a public holiday for the 74th anniversary of modern Turkey's foundation.

Turkey has previously said it only launched aerial attacks on a Turkish Kurd group, the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), which has bases in northern Iraq. Ankara says the PKK receives help from Jalal Talabani's PUK.

The PUK says Turkey's attacks are designed to provide tactical support to the

KDP. The two militias have effectively divided northern Iraq into competing zones, their rivalry marked by periodic clashes.

"Turkish attacks have already claimed the lives of scores of civilians and have displaced thousands of villagers from the communities they rebuilt after the Gulf war with the help of the international community," the PUK said.

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control since Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war. A Western air force based in Turkey patrols the skies over northern Iraq to prevent any attack on the Kurds by Baghdad.

Clashes between the two Iraqi Kurd groups broke out earlier this month after a year of Western-brokered

peace. A ceasefire declared 11 days ago was destroyed by fresh hostilities.

On Tuesday, Massoud Barzani's KDP accused its rival of launching the largest of a series of offensives in the latest fighting, hitting an area to the north of the town of Degala.

The United States, Britain and Turkey, sponsors of an Iraqi Kurd peace process, have backed a KDP demand for Talabani's forces to withdraw to a ceasefire line agreed a year ago.

The PUK has demanded a decision on the status of Erbil, taken from it last year by Mr. Barzani's KDP with the help of Baghdad's troops, and a more equitable distribution of funds from a lucrative oil trade run by Mr. Barzani and Turkey.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10...New Kids on the Block  
14:30...My Little Fairy Tale  
15:00...America's Funniest People  
15:30...He Shoots He Scores  
16:00...I Love Lucy  
16:30...The Boy From Andromeda  
17:00...French Programmes  
19:00...News in French  
19:15...French Programmes  
19:30...News Headlines  
19:35...Trivial Pursuit  
20:00...Parenthood  
20:30...Lois and Clark — Superman  
21:10...Oprah Winfrey Show  
22:00...News in English  
22:30...Feature Film  
23:59...End of TX.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:28...Fajr  
05:46...Sunrise/Duha  
11:19...Dhuhr  
14:25...Asr  
16:53...Maghreb  
18:11...Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifich, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Unstable weather conditions will continue to prevail with skies cloudy to partly cloudy. It will be dusty and thunder rains are expected particularly in the eastern regions. Winds will be southeasterly moderate to active becoming westerly moderate in the evening. In

Aqaba, it will be dusty, skies partly cloudy, and winds northerly moderate to active.

Amman...17/27

Aqaba...20/32

Deserts...16/29

Jordan Valley...21/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 35

Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Adnan Al-Ashhab...602507

Dr. Ayman Al-Muhtashib...875748

Dr. Jamal Jharah...847351

Dr. Abbas Al-Hakim...885446

Firas pharmacy...661912

Ferdows pharmacy...778336

Al Asema pharmacy...637055

Nairoukh pharmacy...623672

Al Salam pharmacy...636730

Yacoub pharmacy...644945

Shmeisani pharmacy...637650

Najib pharmacy...847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr...276852

AI Quds pharmacy...(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ya'qoub Al-Khatib...991772

Khalifeh pharmacy...985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre...637111

Civil Defence Department...661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue...630341

Civil Defence Emergency...199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade...617101

Blood Bank...775121

Highway Police...843402

Traffic Police...896390

Public Security Department...630321

Hotel Complaints...605800

Price Complaints...661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints...897467

Amman Municipality Complaints...787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)...121

Overseas Calls...010330

Central Amman Telephone Repairs...623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs...661101

Jordan Television...773111

Radio Jordan...774111

Water Authority...680100

Jordan Electricity Authority...815615

Electric Power Company...636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53300

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre...813813/32

Khalidi Maternity...644281/6

Akileh Maternity...642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity...642362

Malhas, J. Amman...636140

Palestine, Shmeisani...607071

Shmeisani Hospital...669131

University Hospital...845845

AI-Muasher Hospital...667279

The Islamic, Abdali...666126/37

AI-Ahli, Abdali...664164/6

Italian, AI-Muhajreen...777101/3

AI-Bashir...775111/26

Army, Marka...891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital...602240/50

Amal Hospital...674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery...865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital...09983323

Zarqa National Hospital...09900560

Ibn Sina Hospital...09986732

AI Hikma Modern Hospital...09990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital...02725553

Greek Catholic Hospital...02727275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital...02347100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital...03314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

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08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:00...Bombay (RJ)

09:15...Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

09:30...New Delhi (RJ)

10:05...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

10:05...Beirut (RJ)

10:15...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

11:05...Colombo, Dubai (RJ)

14:45...New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:25...London (RJ)

18:05...Kuwait (RJ)

18:05...Athens (RJ)

18:55...Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

19:05...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ





Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday plants trees with two young Canadians at the Amman National Park. The tree-planting ceremony is an annual event (Petra photo)

## Queen participates in Canadian tree planting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor joined Canadian Ambassador Michael Molloy and members of the Canadian community at the annual Canadian tree-planting ceremony at the Amman National Park, according to a press release Wednesday.

The Municipality of Greater Amman has set aside a section in the

National Park for Canada to plant pine trees. The Canadian embassy has imported Canadian maples that can adapt to Jordan's climate and will plant them next year in the International Forest near the Amman National Park, the statement continued.

After the tree-planting ceremony, Mr. Molloy thanked Queen Noor for the "interest

you have shown in this gathering over the years... (which) we take as yet another example of the leadership you have demonstrated in the greening of Jordan and the protection of this country's unique environment for so many years," according to the statement.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi attended the ceremony.

## Canadian ambassador highlights responsibilities of Canadians

AMMAN (J.T.) — After the annual tree-planting ceremony with Queen Noor (see separate story), Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Molloy spoke on the responsibilities and duties of Canadian citizenship.

"A couple of weeks ago, there was an unfortunate incident here in Jordan in which our good name and our reputation was threatened. Thanks to the exceptionally close cooperation between

our two countries, this incident was resolved in a positive way," according to Mr. Molloy.

"The government of Canada has ensured that the misuse of our documents will not happen again," he continued.

"The reputation Canadians enjoy in Jordan and around the world did not just happen. An important part of that reputation comes from the way thousands upon thousands of Canadians have behaved over

the decades when they have travelled and lived abroad," he said.

He urged Canadians living in Jordan "to live up to that reputation in our dealings with our hosts, in the care we show for Jordan's environment, and in the respect we demonstrate for this country and its people and the contribution we make to Jordan's development."

## Court rejects Faisal's case contesting dissolution of 12th Parliament

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Higher Court of Justice Wednesday rejected a case filed by former deputy Tawajj Faisal contesting the dissolution of Parliament, on grounds it has no jurisdiction to rule on the case.

Ms. Faisal was contesting a Royal Decree issued in August dissolving the 12th Parliament on the grounds that it is unconstitutional to dismiss two consecutive Parliaments for the same reason, and filed a lawsuit against Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid.

The five judges of the Higher Court, in a three-page ruling, stated that the "Royal act of dissolving Parliament was an act of sovereignty that does not fall under within our jurisdiction."

The court, more an administrative tribunal than a constitutional court, said the dissolution of Parliament was a political action and not an administrative one, and was "linked to the authority of ruling and was therefore out of the jurisdiction of the court."

His Majesty King Hussein issued a Royal Decree in August dissolving Parliament as of Sept. 1, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article 34 of the Constitution.

Parliament went into recess after a Royal Decree issued on March 19 ended its regular session, despite an attempt by the opposition in May to call for an extraordinary summer session to discuss amendments to the Press and Publication Law and two other laws.

The court was presided over by Judge Farouq Kilani and included Judges Farah

Rabadi, Hisham Elian, Mohammad Alawneh, and Naim Aref.

"I am satisfied with the verdict because it was justified by the court and was based on and supported by constitutional law," said Attorney Hani Dahleh, who was representing Ms. Faisal.

Ms. Faisal, who was the only female deputy in the 80-seat 12th Parliament, is running for a second term. She is competing in the Amman Third District for the Circassian seat.

She is known for her strong opposition to the government, and has recently alleged that there have been many irregularities in the issuance and distribution of voting cards and has called for the immediate dismissal of the current government of Dr. Majali.

## Seminar ends with principles for a free press

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A seminar on press freedoms that concluded yesterday put forth three principles of press freedoms in Jordan and offered several recommendations to the public and the government of how best to uphold these principles.

A roundtable at the end of the seminar, entitled "The Media and Press Freedoms in Jordan," voiced the opinion that the most important principles concerning freedom of expression in the country were that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, press freedom is vital for the realization of that right, cultural factors cannot justify the withholding of these freedoms, and the Jordanian government should recommend itself by upholding the Constitution and the National Charter and incorporating into law international protocols that safeguard these rights.

In order to achieve this, the seminar offered several recommendations in order to ensure that these principles be upheld. The recommendations referred to: the abolition of the press and press association law; the signature of international protocols on protecting human, civil, and economic rights; the initiation of a serious dialogue between the government, press, and civil organizations to achieve satisfactory protection of individuals' reputations against illegal or unacceptable character assassination or intrusions in their lives; and ending the practice of applying the penal code to issues concerning the press and suspending journalists. Also among the ten recommendations, still not in final form, were suggestions that commitment to and work towards a constitutional court be pursued and that the establishment of independent institutions dedicated to studying the media be encouraged.

The seminar was co-hosted by the newly-established Arab Media Institute (AMI), an NGO dedicated to researching media issues in the Arab World. Al Urdun Al Jadid, a political research centre, and Article 19, a London-based press freedoms group.

Prior to the roundtable, an afternoon session addressed various issues concerning the public's perceptions of the press, the history of the press, and the impact of the communication revolution on the Kingdom.

During the session, a prominent journalist stated that Jordanians do not value personal freedom because "it is not a primary value in our social culture."

Rami Khouri, a writer in several local publications and head of Al Kutba Institute, a publishing house, made the comment during the second day's afternoon session.

"Jordanians put up with constraints on the freedom

of their press and other personal and political freedoms, because in return they enjoy other benefits that are important to them.

"Culturally, therefore, personal freedom is not as high a priority for Jordanians as it is for citizens of Western democracies and so we should not expect that the citizenry demand greater press freedom in the immediate future," he said.

This was the second time that Jordanian and Western perceptions of freedom of the press were at variance during the seminar, and differences, largely attributed to cultural and political realities, were expressed by both Jordanian officials and those in the media industry.

Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani Tuesday observed that Jordan's "geographic vulnerability" in a politically turbulent region does not allow it to cultivate a totally free press.

These sentiments, however, did not discourage participants in the seminar from agreeing on the principle that "cultural differences could not be used as a justification for withholding freedoms of citizens."

Also during the afternoon session, Osama Al Sharif, chief editor of the weekly English-language Star, said it was "surprising that the government has adopted the liberal stand of not regulating access to the Internet," although in the United States, which abides an absolutely free press, a debate on censorship of the

Internet has reached Congress.

He also pointed to the irony of the government's policy of "shying away" from regulating this medium, the use of which is still limited but growing rapidly in the country.

"This double standard baffles me," said Mr. Sharif, alluding to recently implemented amendments to the Press and Publications Law and the subsequent suspension of 13 weekly newspapers.

"The information revolution has made it virtually impossible to monopolize or regulate the truth."

During the morning session, former Lower House Deputy Fares Nabulsi and former High Court Justice Fahd Abu Itam discussed the relationship of the press with the system of checks and balances.

"The freedoms that the Jordanian people enjoyed during the administration of the 11th Parliament until 1993 began regressing gradually until we reached the point we are at today," said Mr. Nabulsi. "In developing our democratic system, we started going backwards to the extent that some voices are now calling for the restoration of martial law."

Amman Mayor Mam-

douh Abbadi, who chaired the session, asked the conference to address the issue of who protects public officials when they are blackmailed and their reputations smeared.

Also participating in yesterday's sessions were Sa'id Essoulami, head of Article 19's Middle East and North African Programme; Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid; Ihsan Ramzi, director general of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation; and Taher Al Masri, former prime minister.

The necessity of realising the principles put forth by the seminar seemed to be underlined by a statement released yesterday by an international human rights group that said the restrictions imposed on the press have "seriously undermined next week's parliamentary elections... and seriously affected the ability of Jordanians to make informed choices on election day."

The U.S. group Human Rights Watch, highly critical of amendments to the press law introduced in May, said also that "free expression is under siege."

The statement reported that "political activists, students, writers, and researchers faced sanctions, including detention, criminal prosecution, imprisonment, harassment, or job loss for expressing political views."

## Bank director assures officials that local market is sound following worldwide scare

AMMAN (J.T.) — Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Ziyad Fariz Wednesday reassured the government that the financial market in Jordan is sound, stressing that Jordan has not been affected by plunging bourses from Asia to New York.

During a visit to the CBJ by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his deputy Abdullah Ensour, Dr. Fariz said "the national economy has not witnessed any adverse effects. The Jordanian financial situation is stable and the monetary and banking systems are functioning normally."

Dr. Fariz pointed to the

various measures the bank has taken, including inspection and control over local banks in order to guarantee the soundness of the banking system and develop and speed up banking procedures.

The CBJ has finalised a draft Bank Law and another on guarantees for deposits, he said.

Observers Tuesday said the global dip in share prices bypassed the Amman bourse, which had already fallen in the last two weeks.

Dr. Fariz reviewed the general situation in the world's financial markets, pointing to a number of steps the bank has taken to

prevent similar crises in Jordan.

Dr. Majali expressed satisfaction with and confidence in the national economy, saying that the bank's measures were in line with government policies.

Also Wednesday, Dr. Majali was quoted by the Cairo-based Voice of Arabs radio as saying that the Israeli attempt on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al in Amman last month and Israel's current policies towards the peace process have adversely affected Jordanian-Israeli relations.

The prime minister referred to a visit to

Amman Tuesday by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, saying that the Russian minister did not bring any new initiative but discussed with the government the appropriate means for giving impetus to the peace process.

He underlined the importance of coordinating Arab countries' stands to deal effectively with the obstacles obstructing the peace process.

Dr. Majali Tuesday was quoted as having told Mr. Primakov that no peace was possible in the region without an Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territories.

## Prosecution concludes arguments in trial of four accused of plotting to attack Israel

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Military prosecutors Tuesday summed up their case against four suspects accused of plotting attacks against Israel to take place in the month of Ramadan, opening the way for the defence to begin its arguments.

The State Security Court, headed by Judge Colonel Yousef Faouri, was presented with a file charging the defendants with plotting attacks against Israel and possessing illegal explosives.

State Prosecutor Mahmoud Obaidat told the court that the file contained the defendants' testimonies and examples of the seized explosives.

Defence Attorneys Mohammad Hantoush and Mohammad Dweik contested the prosecution's file and reiterated their objection to the state prosecutor's investigation procedures.

The court, however, rejected the defence's objections and accepted the prosecution's file.

The charges against Abdul Rahim Yousef, 25, Mujahed Abdul Jawad, 29, Sa'oud Mohammad, 24, and his brother Issa, 21, also include possessing illegal explosives (two hand grenades) and automatic weapons with illicit intent, a charge that could carry the death penalty.

The prosecution is also alleging that the four are affiliated with the outlawed group Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), of

which 10 of its 13 members were sentenced in November of last year to prison terms ranging from two years to life imprisonment.

During the one-hour court session, the tribunal heard the only prosecution witness in the case, Major K. M., 47, of the General Intelligence Department (GID), who testified on the explosives he

retrieved from the first defendant's home.

The GID witness, who has been an explosives expert for the past 25 years, said the two hand grenades he examined were fit for use and capable of causing death.

The four men, who last week pleaded not guilty, were apprehended by authorities in July before carrying out any

attacks.

Messrs. Hantoush and Dweik asked the court to postpone the session to allow time for their clients to prepare a defence statement.

The court tribunal, which also comprised Judges Salem Saudi and Ahmad Ayash, set Nov. 2 as the date to start hearing the defence witnesses.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- CONCERTS**
  - \* Musical performance by the Hannover Boys Choir and the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. (there will be another performance at Al Hussein Ben Talal Auditorium, University of Jordan on Saturday Nov. 1 at 11:00 a.m.)
  - \* Musical performance by Freddy for Music at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 6:00 p.m.
- FILMS**
  - \* "Los Goyos y Las Sombras" (pts 11, 12, 13) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
  - \* "The Accidental Tourist" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
  - \* Film featuring the life and works of French artist Henry Matisse (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Mazen Asfour) at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- JEWELRY/DESIGN SHOW**
  - \* Jewelry show from Lebanon's "Sabika" workshop and show of designs by Lebanese artist May Rishani at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh (Tel. 643251/2), until Oct. 30.
- EXHIBITIONS**
  - \* Paintings by Patrice Coudemec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh, until Nov. 26.
  - \* Graphics exhibition by Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsen at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Nov. 5.
  - \* Plastic (abstract) art by Iraqi artist Maha Isma'il at the Royal Cultural Centre, also displaying paintings by Dutch artist Jamal Khmalis, until Oct. 30.
  - \* Ceramics exhibition at the Silsil Ceramics workshop, Jabel Amman between 4th and 5th Circles, until Oct. 30 (Tel. 6801281).
  - \* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).
  - \* Ceramics exhibition by Ra'd Dlamini at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina, until Oct. 30.
  - \* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakheet at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman, until Oct. 30.
  - \* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassab and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 6589677), until Oct. 30.

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## Child labour can be defeated in 15 years, ILO chief says

OSLO (AFP) — The blight of child labour can be wiped off the world map in the next 15 years, the head of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Michel Hansenne, said Wednesday.

Mr. Hansenne, in a keynote address to the International Conference on Child Labour, said that "the war against child labour is being won and it can be won in all countries in the coming 15 years."

He said that governments, employers and workers' organisations as well as civil society had changed their perceptions of child labour.

"As many as 250 million children are toiling in the huts, villages, towns and cities around the world, struggling simply to survive or to overcome poverty," the ILO director-general said.

Child labour is no longer condoned in silence. In fact, it is at the top of the global agenda," he said.

There had been a radical shift in attitude on the part of rich and developing countries, Mr. Hansenne said, making them more committed to taking direct action against child labour.

Awareness had also bared the full extent of the problem, he said, with the latest ILO estimates of the number employed in child labour at 250 million.

"Some combine work with schooling. Most, however, would have neither the time nor the opportunity to have any schooling at all," Mr. Hansenne said.

"Child labour is simply the single most important cause of child exploitation in the world today," he added.

To combat child labour,

Mr. Hansenne called for a political commitment for the abolition of child labour, a time-bound programme of action against child labour, an international convention to eliminate all extreme forms of child labour and a global accord of international cooperation.

He also warned that efforts to wipe out child labour should not be sacrificed in the interest of free-market economics.

"It is important that the struggle against child labour is not compromised

by protectionist forces or perceived to be a Trojan horse for protectionism or domination," Mr. Hansenne said.

In the other main speech of the day, UNICEF chief Carol Bellamy said that a major cooperative effort was needed involving governments, communities, families, international agencies, trade unions, and non-governmental organisations.

"Additional resources to eliminate child labour will have to be mobilised at a time of increasingly fierce

competition in global trade and commerce," the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund said.

This comes at a time when poverty is on the rise and overall development aid plummets.

"Alliances that can tap the vast constructive potential of the private sector should be encouraged," Ms. Bellamy said.

Ms. Bellamy said that education was "the single most effective tool we have for eliminating child labour" and that without it "there will be no long term solution to child labour."

"Quality primary education that is relevant and affordable to poor families will go far in attacking the root causes of child labour," Ms. Bellamy said. "And the benefits will accrue especially to girls who make up 60 per cent of the 140 million children worldwide who are not in school," she added.

But Ms. Bellamy warned that education in itself, while vital, was not the only consideration and that compensation for poor families for loss of income from child labour and economic incentives to help them escape from indebtedness were also important.

"The powerlessness of families in need must also be addressed by steps to eradicate all forms of discrimination, especially against women and girls," Ms. Bellamy said.

The four-day Oslo conference is to wind up Thursday with the adoption of a programme of goals and principles mapping the way ahead in the fight against child labour.



Veteran Pakistani politician Nawabzada Nasrullah (holding a stick), escorted by other opposition leaders, Manzoor Watto (left), Kabir Wasti (second right) and Malik Hakmeen (right), walks out of the Supreme Court building in Islamabad (Reuter photo)

## Pakistani court suspends law stopping MPs from party dissent

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's Supreme Court Wednesday suspended a law empowering leaders of political parties to unseat a dissenting MP, amid a festering row between the government and judiciary, court officials said.

Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, who has been locked in a tussle with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over the issue of the appointment of judges, placed an interim order on a challenge to the law.

The law was introduced by Mr. Sharif through a constitutional amendment unanimously adopted by parliament in June.

It effectively allows party leaders to unseat any of their party MPs who diverge from the party line or vote against the party.

The suspension will remain in place until a final decision on the petition sponsored by a group of lawyers who contend the law curbs rights of freedom of association and speech guaranteed by the constitution.

Members of the parliament feel they may lose their seats if they express freely their candid opinion, the order said, adding it was right to grant interim relief.

Mr. Shah, heading a three-judge bench, passed the order after arguments by Attorney General

Mohammad Farooq who said the law had been introduced to strengthen democracy.

Political horse-trading has plagued Pakistan politics in the past, leading to destabilisation of elected governments.

During his first 1990-93 term Mr. Sharif himself suffered as several members ditched him amid his power tussle with then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, forcing both to resign.

Pakistani opposition parties, in a joint statement issued late Tuesday, said the anti-defection 14th Constitutional Amendment had turned the parliament into a "rubber stamp forum."

In a declaration they accused Mr. Sharif of trying to impose a "one-party dictatorship" on Pakistan.

The court order came as Pakistani leaders met in emergency session in a last-ditch attempt to resolve a crisis over appointing senior judges, official sources said.

The crucial talks brought together President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, Sharif, Mr. Shah and the chief of the powerful army, General Jehangir Karamat, they said.

Headlines in national dailies reported progress towards breaking the deadlock at the meeting at the

presidency late Tuesday, which lasted more than three hours.

No official confirmation of the reports, which said the government was to unveil details of a settlement later Wednesday, was immediately available.

The reports however gave a boost to Pakistan's main Karachi Stock Exchange which started recovering Wednesday after a steep fall on Tuesday over fears of political uncertainty and fallout of a stock crisis in Hongkong.

The government-judiciary tussle centres on Mr. Sharif's refusal to elevate five high court judges to the Supreme Court as recommended by the chief justice early this month to increase the strength of the top judicial forum to 17.

The crisis came to a head as the government summoned the national assembly, which was to convene late Wednesday, to discuss the issue, saying it was for parliament to fix the number of judges at the Supreme Court.

Sources in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said Mr. Sharif would chair a meeting of legislators from his party and allied groups before the session.

## N. Korea brushes aside hopes of changes to foreign policy

SEOUL (AFP) — Stalling North Korea Wednesday brushed aside expectations abroad that its foreign policy may change now that Kim Jong-il has officially become the ruling party's leader.

The official North Korea Central News Agency said: "Some countries expressed the expectation that some 'change' would be made in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)."

But the agency quoted Rodong Sinmun, newspaper of the ruling Workers' Party, as saying: "These remarks can be made only by those who do not know well about the faith, will and principled stand of the Workers' Party and people of Korea."

It is the "invariable faith" of North Koreans that will make Korean Socialism triumph, the paper said. "We will hold the red flag of Socialism higher than ever before, no matter how others may slander us and which way the wind may blow," it said.

"We warn them not to expect any change from us. The principled stand of our party and people in foreign relations is consistent."

The paper said Pyongyang had "actively developed" its ties with those countries which do not infringe upon its sovereignty, dignity and interests. "The same can be said of the relations with the United States and Japan," it said.

"A radical change will be made" in relations between Pyongyang and Washington "if the U.S. fulfils its obligations as a direct party responsible for the Korean question," Rodong Sinmun said.

The North has demanded that Washington open direct bilateral talks with it on normalising ties and on officially ending the Korean war of 1950-53 by concluding a peace treaty.

## Paula Jones' lawyers subpoena Gennifer Flowers

DALLAS (R) — Paula Jones' attorneys in her sexual harassment lawsuit against U.S. President Bill Clinton Tuesday subpoenaed Gennifer Flowers, the former cabaret singer who claims she had a long affair with Mr. Clinton.

Ms. Flowers' attorney, Roger Burke told Reuters that Ms. Jones' lawyers subpoenaed his client to give a deposition in the Jones case on Nov. 14.

"She has been officially subpoenaed by Paula Jones' attorneys. Her deposition was requested for Nov. 14," Mr. Burke said. "I don't think it came as a surprise to us they would subpoena her."

He said Ms. Jones' lawyers also requested tape recordings of conversations between Ms. Flowers and Mr. Clinton and any letters or notes written between the two.

Ms. Flowers almost derailed Mr. Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign by claiming she had a 12-year affair with him while he was governor of Arkansas. He adamantly denied her claims.

Mr. Clinton's lawyer, allege Ms. Jones' team is trying to humiliate the president and Monday asked a federal judge block several depositions already planned in the lawsuit.

## Cheerful Chinese president meets Clinton ahead of summit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A smiling Chinese President Jiang Zemin held close to two hours of informal talks with his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton late Tuesday, ahead of a full summit where agreement on a lucrative nuclear cooperation deal is almost certain.

Mr. Jiang, who flew into Washington Tuesday, arrived at the White House for his "informal but substantive meeting" with Mr. Clinton around 9:15 p.m. (0215 GMT Wednesday).

The first Chinese president to make a state visit to the United States in 12 years almost doubled his scheduled one-hour slot and did not leave the White House until shortly before (0415 GMT Wednesday), administration officials said.

During the "very direct and personal" discussions, the two presidents agreed to set up a hot line between them, the officials added.

No decision was revealed on an almost certain deal to allow U.S. companies to sell nuclear power technology to China.

The Jiang-Clinton talks followed a 40-minute "welcoming" session with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at the state guest house, Blair House, where the contents of the two presidents' summit Wednesday were discussed.

Mr. Jiang said little in the gaps in his busy schedule, but emerged from Blair House after his talks with Ms. Albright with a broad smile on his face and said his visit was, so far, "very good."

Ms. Albright said Wednesday's summit would address a "whole host of strategic issues and the many other issues that make up our multi-faceted relationship," including human rights.

While China's foreign ministry refused to be drawn on the substantive

issues to be discussed, spokesman Shen Guofang dismissed U.S. pressure to release Chinese dissidents, which is high up on Washington's agenda.

"I hope that the United States will respect the independence of our judicial and government system," he said, when questioned on U.S. efforts to secure the release of top dissidents such as Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan.

Mr. Shen also shrugged off growing crowds of demonstrators clouting Mr. Jiang's state visit, saying they knew nothing of the situation in the troubled region.

Mr. Jiang, 71, was greeted by some 60 protesters chanting "Free Tibet" when he arrived at Blair House with his wife Wang Yeping after visiting the colonial-era town of Williamsburg.

And about 100 protesters held a vigil outside the Chinese embassy, some holding candles and others with signs reading "Stop human rights abuses in China and in Tibet" and "Free Wei Jingsheng," China's best-known dissident.

More than 2,000 demonstrators protesting Chinese control of Tibet, claims on Taiwan and jail terms for dissidents were expected to take to the streets Wednesday during the summit.

On the agreement to lift a nuclear technology exports ban on China, Mr. Shen refused to be drawn, but U.S. officials said the deal — which would allow U.S. firms to build nuclear power plants in China — was basically in the bag.

"Only if the two presidents don't agree with what has been negotiated by their people" will the deal fall through, a senior U.S. official said.

China reportedly agreed in talks with U.S. officials in Beijing last week to end its long-running nuclear cooperation with Iran, which Washington views

as a terrorist state trying to develop nuclear weapons.

This would open the way for certification to Congress that Beijing is not abetting the spread of nuclear weapons and allow U.S. companies to sell nuclear technology to China.

The nation of 1.2 billion people is expected to spend \$50 billion to \$60 billion in the next eight years to meet its energy needs, making it by far the world's fastest-growing nuclear market.

But certification may yet prove a tough package to sell to the Republican-dominated Congress, some of whose members are preparing to fight.

Two influential senators, Republicans Jesse Helms and Richard Shelby, told Mr. Clinton in a letter Monday that it would be "premature" to allow U.S.-Sino nuclear cooperation and urged him to reconsider.

Others planned to urge Mr. Jiang to improve China's human rights record at a congressional breakfast Thursday, and it is there that Mr. Jiang may be most in need of his well-honed public relations skills to brush off criticism.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Jiang have met four times since 1993, the last time in Manila in November 1996.

For fear of alienating an American public whose dominant image of China is of the 1989 Tiananmen square crackdown, however, Mr. Clinton resisted Chinese requests for a full-scale state visit until his second term.

The Chinese requested a "very traditional" visit with all the summit trappings Wednesday: a 21-gun salute on the White House lawn, a luncheon hosted by Vice President Al Gore, and a state dinner, said Mary McElreath, chief of protocol at the State Department.

## Papon has acute lung infection — report

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — Maurice Papon, on trial for wartime crimes against humanity, has an acute lung infection, according to a medical expert quoted Wednesday by lawyers.

The trial of Mr. Papon, 87, was adjourned last Thursday when the former prefect of the Paris police, who is accused of deporting more than 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps in World War II, was rushed to hospital with bronchitis in both lungs.

The Assize Court here called in Paris lung specialist René Pariente to examine Mr. Papon. His report said the acute infection usually needed 10 days or two weeks to cure, but that Mr. Papon, a former budget minister under ex-President

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, could "very probably" return to his trial Friday, the lawyers said.

Mr. Papon, who underwent a triple bypass heart operation last year, is being treated with antibiotics at the Haut Leveque hospital in Pessac, on the outskirts of this south-western city.

Assize Court President Jean-Louis Castagnede will read out the report in court Wednesday before announcing a date for resumption of the trial.

If it resumes Friday, American and French historians Robert Paxton and Henri Lamoureux will testify on the situation of Nazi-occupied France in World War II. Mr. Papon was secretary-general at the Bordeaux prefecture in charge of the "Jewish question" between 1947 and 1944.



N. Korea brushes aside hopes of changes to foreign policy

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea brushed aside hopes that it might change its foreign policy after the death of its leader Kim Jong-il, who died Wednesday.

Paula Jones' lawyers subpoena Jennifer Flowers

Two more coup plotters arrested in Zambia

# Prince Charles kicks off Africa tour in Swaziland

MBABANE (R) — Prince Charles, getting back to work after the death of his ex-wife Diana, landed in a very over-cast Swaziland Wednesday to begin an eight-day tour of Southern Africa.



Prince Charles takes the salute upon arrival at the Matsapha international airport (Reuters photo)

Prince Charles arrived just after 0830 GMT in a South African Airways plane, with the British royal standard flying as it taxied into position for an official welcome.

The prince, in a dark blue suit and tie, descended from the plane onto a red carpet and was presented with a garland of red and yellow carnations which he wore around his neck.

He was met by Prime Minister Sibiso Dlamini, introduced to chiefs, traditional princes and other dignitaries and reviewed a military guard of honour before being driven from the airport in King Mswati III's silver Rolls Royce with its number plate M111.

"It was very smart, the guard of honour," he told one of the dignitaries lined up to meet him.

"Didn't I meet you last time?" he said jokingly to one woman and chuckled heartily when journalists asked him if he remembered his last visit 10 years ago when he was greeted by a line of semi-naked women.

Keeping to a pledge to spend more time with his two sons now their mother is gone, the heir to the British throne brought Prince Harry with him, but they said a temporary goodbye during a brief morning stop-over in Johannesburg.

Prince Harry, 13, will go on holiday with a schoolfriend in South Africa while his father meets fellow royalty, politicians and ordinary people in the twin southern African kingdoms of Swaziland and Lesotho.

They meet up again Saturday for a charity concert in South Africa's commercial capital Johannesburg, featuring Britain's chart-topping Spice Girls.

"The prince is now a single parent and it is his son's half term and as such Prince Harry is with his father," a spokeswoman for the prince of Wales said.

Wales said. "But, like other working fathers, he has to get on with his job and his official duties too."

Prince Charles, accompanied by aides and a platoon of journalists, flew into the Swazi capital Mbabane where he was to visit parliament before meeting King Mswati, 25, and watching traditional dancing and singing with the queen mother.

His visit is being keenly watched back home for any signs of a more informal manner that might signify Prince Charles is ready to modernise the monarchy, in response to public pressure following Diana's Paris car-crash death on Aug. 31.

But the 48-year-old prince is unlikely to find inspiration for a fresher constitutional monarchy in the Swazi royal realm.

King Mswati's return Tuesday from a Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh was marked by a teachers' demonstration where police shot rubber bullets and teargas at the crowds.

The kingdom of a million people is the only country in Southern Africa where political parties are banned — and have been for almost a quarter of a century.

Trade unions have stepped up a campaign of strikes this month in protest at the snail's pace of the all-powerful

king's steps towards constitutional reform.

Thursday afternoon Prince Charles flies on to the tiny mountain realm of Lesotho to attend the coronation of King Letsie, who took over from his late father only to restore the throne to him shortly before his death two years ago.

Prince Charles, who has cancelled most engagements since Diana died in order to be with his sons, has bent royal protocol by bringing Prince Harry with him for parts of the tour, during school holidays which he would have spent with his mother.

Prince William, 15, whom many Britons say they want to assume the crown instead of his sister, is already back at his school in Eton.

Britain's public grief when 36-year-old Diana died with her friend Dodi Fayed prompted observers to declare that its people had lost the traditional stiff upper lip and inability to express emotion, and that the royal Windsor family should follow suit.

Queen Elizabeth, commenting that she sometimes felt too old for the modern world, stuck to state-visits-as-usual when she toured Pakistan and India this month, but royal watchers say Prince Charles should take a different path.

# Asia-Pacific AIDS experts call for increased research funding

MANILA (AFP) — Asia-Pacific AIDS experts called Wednesday for increased funding for research and other programmes related to controlling the deadly disease.

They issued a "Manila manifesto" at the end of a five-day conference here, calling for a "sustainable regional network of exchange and collaboration" on acquired immune deficiency syndrome as well as "increased allocation of funds in national and local budgets" for AIDS programmes.

Experts have earlier said the Asia-Pacific region can expect AIDS infection to double to between 10 million and 14 million cases by 2000.

The 2,500 delegates, including U.N. and government officials, researchers, company executives, advocacy groups and sex workers, pledged to back efforts to "undertake medical research focusing on cost effectiveness" in laboratory tests in the search for an effective vaccine against the virus.

The manifesto pledged to duplicate "successful responses" to the health crisis by focusing attention on "risk and harm reduction" and incorporating AIDS prevention in reproductive health and family planning campaigns.

"Harm reduction" is a term usually referring to needle exchange programmes for drug addicts and condom distribution to sex workers to prevent the spread of AIDS without necessarily curbing drug taking or prostitution.

It also pledged to work to "abolish sexual

exploitation of women, youth and children" in partnership with governments, private groups, regional organisations and vulnerable communities.

The delegates noted that youths, women and "marginalised populations" were the most vulnerable to infection and warned "our countries face increased social and economic burden" from the disease.

But they also acknowl-

edged that "responses to AIDS have worked in this region, often in the face of intolerance or prejudice."

This was an apparent reference to the examples of Australia, New Zealand and Thailand, which have managed to stem the spread of the disease, and Singapore and the Philippines which have kept AIDS at relatively low levels.

At the closing ceremonies, Roy Chan, president of the AIDS Society

for Asia and the Pacific, noted that non-government organisations (NGOs) played a special role in responding to AIDS due to their flexibility and proximity to affected sectors.

But he noted that these organisations often lacked funds and management skills and called for a partnership between NGOs and businesses.

He cited the Thailand Business Coalition on AIDS as an example of

such a collaboration.

Geoff Manthey, executive director of U.N. AIDS, the United Nations programme against AIDS, noted that the private sector was largely absent from the conference, except for drug companies hawked their wares.

He also said there were not enough sex workers who attended, and added, "where are the sex workers' employers? We should hear from them."

Mr. Manthey acknowledged that some Catholic nuns had attended but noted that no bishops had shown up and asked "where was the official voice of the Catholic Church?"

"We heard it outside the halls, but not here," he said, referring to influential Philippine Catholic leaders who earlier criticised the conference for advocating use of condoms.

"There are still people who think condom use increases sex," he said.

He also noted there were groups which insisted that countries that distribute condoms still had high incidences of AIDS, proving it did not work, alluding to the church.

"This message is vindictive. It is a lie and it should be stopped," Mr. Manthey said angrily.

The conference closed with an emotional joining of hands by the delegates.

Before the closing ceremonies, the conference was also addressed by representatives of sex workers and injecting drug users, the sectors most vulnerable to the fatal disease, and a man infected with the AIDS virus.

## Leaders must take political risks on AIDS, U.N. expert

MANILA (AFP) — Government leaders need to champion politically risky but necessary measures to headway against the deadly AIDS disease, a U.N. expert said Wednesday.

Rob Moodie, director of U.N. Programme on AIDS, which coordinates efforts against the disease, said convincing leaders to act was a crucial, but often ignored, component in AIDS prevention strategies.

"We have actively ignored those making the decisions," leaving the leaders to advocate the wrong policies, he said in a paper read at an international AIDS conference here by U.N. AIDS official Jerome Pankie.

There was "little political advantage" in encouraging necessary measures like needle-exchange programmes for drug addicts and condom distribution to sex workers, he said. Those who advocated such measures could lose

votes or jobs, he said, citing the case of a Catholic bishop who was removed from his post for advocating condom use and tolerance of homosexuals.

Instead, leaders would "encourage the spread of AIDS" by campaigning against condom use, opposing needle exchanges, calling for mandatory AIDS testing and denying the existence of prostitutes.

Mr. Moodie said that some leaders did this out of ignorance while others "simply believe they are right."

He called for contacts with decision-makers, be they government officials, community leaders or religious pastors in different ways.

For those who advocate a hardline stance such as the "just say no" school which simply opposes drug use or casual sex, Mr. Moodie said they could advocate a "system of incremental changes."

This would involve urging people to slowly change their behaviour until they stop the actions that make them vulnerable to AIDS.

However Mr. Moodie said that they also had to make the leaders understand that the policy of "harm-reduction" involving needle exchanges and condom distribution was still the most effective approach, even if it remains controversial.

"Decision-makers need support" to convince them to adopt such measures, he said, calling for "peer support networks" among the leaders to help shore up such support.

But he warned that there would always be "leaders who feed, rather than stem the epidemic, who actually believe they are right" and who refuse to change their minds.

In such cases, "it is in the interest of health" that their actions, inactions and statements are repeatedly countered.

EU, Australia donate aid to fight Indonesia fires

JAKARTA (AFP) — The European Union has pledged 1,092 billion rupiah (\$299,178) and Australia \$360,000 to help Indonesia overcome the land and forest fires, officials said Wednesday.

The European assistance will take the form of firefighting equipment worth 650 million rupiah (\$178,800), remote sensing equipment worth 385 million rupiah (\$105,500) and 57 million rupiah (\$15,600) in fighting expertise, an European Union statement said here.

Visiting Australian Prime Minister John Howard said that his government was giving \$360,000 for ground firefighting trainings in Indonesia.

The European statement said the European member states and the European Commission together provided nearly 35 per cent of all external assistance to Indonesia's forest sector.

"The EU, therefore, has a long-term commitment to Indonesian forestry sector in the form of a number of projects focusing on the conservation and sustainable management of Indonesia's forest resources," it said. Separately, it said, the United Kingdom had provided further assistance of \$110,000 to help fire victims. Greece had given \$10,000 for humanitarian aid, while additional aid had also come from Finland, France, Germany and Sweden.

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# Cartoon Japanese princess set to beat Spielberg's E.T.

TOKYO (AFP) — An animated film about a Japanese princess who fights to save a forest is likely to gross more than "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," the biggest hit ever in the country, a business daily said Wednesday.

Since its debut in mid-July, the movie, "The Princess Mononoke," has attracted 12 million people across Japan, with earnings set to reach 10 billion yen (\$83.3 million), the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

If "The Princess Mononoke" continues to draw large audiences, it will

break the record of 9.6 billion yen in revenue by "E.T.," the daily said.

The movie has also had bumper spin-offs selling about one billion yen worth of character goods as well as 2.5 million copies of the movie pamphlets, it added.

A spokesman for the film distributor Toho Co. Ltd., however, declined to confirm the news reports, saying the company would release the detailed statement later this week.

Hayao Miyazaki, who created a series of hit animated movies including "Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind" and "My Neighbour Totoro."

"The Princess Mononoke" is set in 14th century Japan and tells of a young girl raised by animals who joins them in battling humans trying to destroy their forests.

It opened in Hong Kong and Taiwan in August. It will also be released in the United States, Europe and Brazil early next year with Walt Disney Co as distributor, a Toho spokesman said.



## Jordan Times

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## Giants move closer

TALKS BETWEEN Chinese President Jiang Zemin and President Bill Clinton in Washington this week should put U.S.-Chinese relations on a new path following years of ups and downs in the two giants' ties. Beijing is clearly interested in cultivating closer relations with Washington in order to promote trade and be able to have access to latest American technology innovations. China, which in the past two decades moved rapidly in the direction of a market economy has high stakes in maintaining good relations with the U.S.

The immediate implications of the growing rapprochement between the two economic giants suggest that the so-called new international order would in the future be influenced more by the market economy forces rather than be controlled by a single power, the U.S. China, therefore, seems to be ready to abandon foreign policy stands that might hamper its drive of becoming an economic giant through befriending the U.S. The U.S., meanwhile, appears to recognise what it takes to lure China closer to the Western orbit and how to extricate more concessions from Beijing.

On the top of the list of priorities for President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is the cessation of all military cooperation between China and Iran. No doubt Washington would strive to attain this objective because it still views Tehran as a mortal enemy of Israel and a regional threat to American interests in the Middle East.

In return, the U.S. will offer to ease its criticism of China's human rights record. The downgrading of U.S. allegations of Chinese human rights violations will most probably be targeted at the U.S. Congress where many congressmen have made human rights in China a rallying point for their crusade against the Zemin regime. The fact that both Washington and Beijing have agreed to establish a hot line suggests that, notwithstanding all qualms about China's human rights record, the two countries are determined to put this issue behind them and instead forge solid and enduring relations.

The implications of the weakening of Chinese independent foreign policy on relations with countries that are outside the orbit of the "Western alliance," such as Iran and Iraq, are obviously great. Marginal powers must now toe the line or else risk all. We have seen this reflected in the Chinese "message" to Iraq Tuesday not to read too much into Beijing's recent abstention on the U.S.-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution calling for stiffer sanctions against Iraq and China's call on Baghdad not to halt cooperation with the U.N. inspection teams as Baghdad has threatened to do.

China is certainly turning into an economic, military and political giant to reckon with, but it is not yet ready to play the role of a superpower by having its own independent course of action.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's Nawaf Zaru likened the Turkish security zone created inside Iraqi territory to the security zone created by Israelis in southern Lebanon saying both zones clearly manifest ambitious designs and hostility towards the Arab Nation. The Israeli-Turkish alliance under the U.S. umbrella is thus posing a permanent threat to the Arab Nation and its future, said the writer. By joining hands with Turkey, Israel hopes to ensure permanent hegemony over the whole Arab World backed by its nuclear power and unlimited support from the U.S., Zaru said. He said this development is precisely the intention of Turkey which hopes to impose its hegemony on the Arabs and expand its territory at their expense. If these open threats do not motivate the Arabs to unite and close their ranks to face the common threat, said the writer, it is really difficult to imagine them reconciling or coming together for any other purpose. Zaru said expressions of condemnation or displays of indifference towards the ongoing events are certain to result in very serious consequences that will affect the whole nation.

Al Ra'i's Mohammad Barhoumeh, commenting on Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's Middle East tour, said the Arab countries naturally welcome the minister's visit and hope Moscow will renew its role as a cosponsor of the peace process. Noting that Primakov's trip followed President Yeltsin's recent declaration that his country will play a more positive role in the peace process, Barhoumeh said that despite the recent adverse developments, Russia remains a major world power that can influence the course of events in different parts of the world. It is to be noted, he said, that while former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made 23 trips to the region, Primakov came here only twice; and yet the time is ripe for Moscow's efforts to help the Arabs and the Israelis reach a final settlement. Russia may have failed in the past to play a meaningful role especially in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union because of numerous internal problems, the adverse financial situation and the emergence of the Russian Mafia, said the writer. But, he added, it is not too late for Moscow, which used to maintain close links with the countries of the region, to undertake a meaningful step to bring about the aspired peace.

## View from Academia

# Parliamentary elections and public performance

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

AS ONE drives in the capital or the major Jordanian cities or towns — less than a week before the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections — and peruses the various banner slogans with which our streets are filled; as one looks at the various pictures of parliamentary candidates, many of whose faces have become fairly familiar; as one takes part in informal and formal get-togethers in which candidates and candidacies are debated; as one watches and listens to candidates airing their messages through the media; as one contemplates the meaning of all the signs and signals in the campaign, one is generally left not with a feeling of enthusiasm, pride, promise and hope (as might be expected) but, alas, with a sense of hollowness, falsehood and absurdity.

For the democratic process itself, we are — and remain eternally — genuinely grateful. Under the circumstances (and despite the annoying side-effects that inevitably come with it) democracy seems indeed to be almost the perfect solution for the Arab World and for the Kingdom. No one in his/her right mind (there are some among us who, of course, aren't) denies that the Kingdom's open-hearted embrace of democracy in 1989 has been a blessing in many obvious ways. Furthermore, no one denies that the country has made remarkable progress in the way of understanding how democracy works and how to make it work. When it comes to parliamentary life, however, much still needs to be understood and

much needs to be done. And this, I'm afraid, takes time.

For one thing, the parliament has not, over the past decade or so, evolved, developed, and asserted itself in a way which enables it to be taken seriously by the general public. Many people, still, do not see it as an institution which can make a real difference in their lives. Most feel that it has not scored well in raising and supporting issues of concern to the people. Many feel that once the candidates are elected, it is extremely hard, if not impossible, to have access to them.

For another, the same thing can be said about the political parties (which constitute the backbone of the democratic process); until now, they also have failed to evolve, develop and assert themselves in a way which enables them to be taken seriously by the intelligent public. Most, if not all, have no coherent, well-defined positions on issues of public concern. Most are themselves unknown to people. People realise that parties take time to evolve and crystallise positions on issues and that we are passing through a transitional period with respect to party life, but the transitional period seems to be taking forever and, over the past decade or so, the parties have not achieved much by way of making themselves known.

But the sense of hollowness, falsehood and absurdity stems from the calibre and nature of the candidates themselves. There is a general feeling that most of the candidates running for elections are nei-

ther convincing nor appealing. What are their qualifications? What entitles them to run? Some belong to parties which are themselves suspect and obsolete (extending or springing from clandestine parties in the pre-democratic era, parties which receive their ideologies, instructions and support from outside the country). Some, as we have just said, belong to parties which we know nothing of but the name. Some are simply, and merely, from well-known families and tribes. Some are virtually unknown individuals who are after attention, publicity, and prestige. Some are sincere and enthusiastic to contribute, even though they may not know how. Some have money. Are these the right qualifications and motives for candidates?

Probably not. What is most disappointing is the absence — or scarcity — of what you may call career candidates, people who have contributed in a certain field of importance or a certain sphere of public life, and have distinguished themselves; people who have been actively involved in matters, who hold strong but also intelligent opinions about matters of public concern: career civil or military servants, political or social activists, environmentalists, academics with coherent views, distinguished doctors and engineers, powerful journalists, politicians who have made an impact of some sort, etc. I will venture the claim here that most of those (though by no means all) who are running for the Nov. 4 elections have no such qualifications.

We do have in our society (though these are a rare breed) excellent civil servants, distinguished academics, strong politicians, devoted activists, exceptional doctors, engineers, pilots, teachers, etc. But these are virtually unknown (they have not made themselves known, and society has not made them known). These do not run for elections.

In the absence of people belonging to this latter group, the vacuum will (naturally) be filled by those described above: the opportunists, the prestige seekers, the enthusiasts, the tribal candidates and the suspect or unknown party members.

The story of our parliament is much like that of our public institutions. As those who occupy leadership positions in the latter are not, necessarily, the more competitive, able, excellent, creative, and qualified; those seeking admission to parliament are of the same type and calibre. In fact many of those who run for parliament are former administrative leaders from our institutions who have occupied positions through ways and means we are all familiar with. As appointments to important positions at our institutions are not dependent on distinction in career and excellence in performance, the same can easily apply to parliament candidacy.

Until such a time comes (and it is not coming soon) when our society begins to take people's accomplishments and performance seriously, parliamentary elections will continue to leave us with the feeling and sense described above.

# The 'Iranian missile crisis' causes another fuss

By G.H. Jansen

NICOSIA — Any observer of recent military happenings in the Gulf region cannot forbear to ask the question, "Why all the fuss and botheration?" Why did the American armada sail to the Gulf?

Four weeks ago eight planes of the Iranian air force attacked and bombed bases in central Iraq, near the border with Iran, of the Mujahedin Khalq, an Iranian grouping opposing the government of the mullahs under President Mohammad Khatami.

To do so the Iranian aircraft violated the U.S.-U.K. imposed "no fly zones" which cover north and south Iraq almost to Baghdad. At the same time, Iraqi planes strayed into these zones, earning censure from the U.S.

As far as the first incident was concerned, a few casualties and some damage was done by the single raid: nothing much to write home about. And yet there was a massively disproportionate U.S. response. Since Washington categorises both Iran and Iraq as its "enemies" in the region against whom it is applying a strategy of "double containment," an attack by one of these enemies on the territory of the other is, from the U.S. point of view, almost too good to be true — "a consummation devoutly to be wished." Yet the U.S. used the Iranian raid as a pretext to order a naval task force to move immediately and at speed from the eastern Indian ocean to the Gulf.

This force consisted of the 73,000 tonne aircraft carrier "Nimitz" accompanied by half a dozen other warships in a battle group, plus a submarine and helicopters. The "Nimitz" itself carries 80 warplanes, 20 of them of the latest state of the art attack variety. But once this formidable

force reached the northern end of the Gulf what was it supposed to do? It was supposed, U.S. spokesmen claimed, to deter further Iranian infringements of the "no-fly zones."

But it cannot be imagined that the Iranians would follow up their initial raids against the Mujahedin bases with further raids or attacks on the U.S. force which would simply, easily and quickly demolish any Iranian planes sent against them.

And with regard to the concurrent Iraqi violations of the "no-fly zones," the same fate would be meted out to any Iraqi aircraft rash enough to continue these incursions or to attack the Americans.

Clearly the violations merely supplied a pretext to deploy the armada. But why did the U.S. seek a pretext for gunboat diplomacy? The immediate aim was to monitor Iranian naval manoeuvres taking place in the Gulf. The longer-term goal was to hamper and curb the development of Iran's military capabilities. For several months now the Americans, egged on by the Israelis, have been building up an anti-Iranian scare, an "Iranian missile crisis." The objective of this scare is to put pressure on China and Russia to halt the sale to Iran of armaments and equipment for nuclear power plants originally built during the Shah's time.

The strategic game plan of the Israelis is to impress upon and convince the Americans that all the Arabs, indeed all Muslims, are the enemies of the U.S.

And thus to reinforce the Israeli claim that the one and only reliable friend of the U.S. in the vital West Asian region is Israel. Thus, the Israelis point out that Iraq is refusing to "come clean" with the U.N. over its weapons of mass destruction, all of which are supposed to be destroyed under the terms of the armistice agreement which ended the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq is still obstinately obstructing U.N. observer teams inspecting its military facilities in search of such weapons because, it is said by Western observers, that Iraq is trying to manufacture chemical and biological weapons as well as long-range missiles to fire those weapons at Israel — like the Scud missiles which Iraq fired without much effect during the Gulf war. According to the Israelis, Iran has much the same ambition as Iraq. And the Iranian weapons programme has to be taken very much more seriously than that of Iraq, which is under severe restriction.

With the aim of building up this phoney "Iran missile crisis," Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, said recently that Iran, with Russia's help, would be able to manufacture medium-range ballistic missiles by 1999.

Iran, the minister asserted, wants to improve its chemical warheads and to produce biological and nuclear warheads as well.

His assertions were part and parcel of a well-orchestrated campaign mounted by Western "experts" who have published accounts in Western publications claiming that Iran has already developed three ballistic missiles, one with a range of 1,500 kilometres that could threaten Israel, the Gulf states and Asia; the second with a range of 3,000 kilometres which could hit Europe, and a less advanced third type with a range of 5,500 kilometres which could, ultimately, be used against U.S. targets.

Other Western "experts" with no politico-military agenda contradict these assessments and say that Iran will, at the earliest, be able to test an improved medium range North Korean Scud type missile by 1998 and manufacture such missiles within three years if the test is successful. These experts argue that there is no evidence that Iran is

manufacturing chemical or biological or nuclear warheads and until such evidence surfaces the world should take Iranian denials seriously.

A very knowledgeable American regional commentator, Thomas Friedman, has suggested that the Israeli campaign is meant to deflect attention from the systematic destruction of the Arab-Israeli peace process by the present Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

This may be so, but there is another, far more important reason. Israel must create a climate of threat — of Israel being in danger — in order to maintain its powerful influence in the U.S. Jewish community and its iron grip on the White House and Congress. Threats against Israel, Arab or Iranian, genuine or fake, enable the Jewish state to keep arms and funds flowing from its friends and supporters in the U.S. Which is why the notion of an "Iranian missile crisis" is of great importance to Israel.

The phoney "crisis" also serves the Clinton administration's policy of isolating and "containing" Iran by deterring Western countries from becoming involved in the development of Iran's oil and gas sector. But, does the U.S. really expect the rest of the world to take seriously its dramatic gunboat deployment in the Gulf? Or the "missile crisis" campaign? So far they have not prevented France, Russia, China and Malaysia from investing in a new offshore gas field or Britain from contributing to the construction of a trans-Iranian pipeline. Indeed, it could be said that the "missile crisis" has been created precisely at the time the rest of the world is normalising relations with Iran in order to block investment in the development of this large and important Middle Eastern country.

## LETTERS

### Before Doha, look at history

To the editor:

I KEEP reading how important it is for Jordan and the other Arab nations to go to Doha, and to "not let Qatar down." Maybe another look should be taken while there is yet time.

History is full of cases where imperilled nations and tribes thought that they could do business with others who were more intent on defeating them, or their neighbours. Such was the case in 1939, when British Prime Minister Chamberlain announced "Peace in our time" when he dealt with another aggressor. A year later, the world was at war, because the aggressor understood the real message, that those under attack didn't have the will to fight.

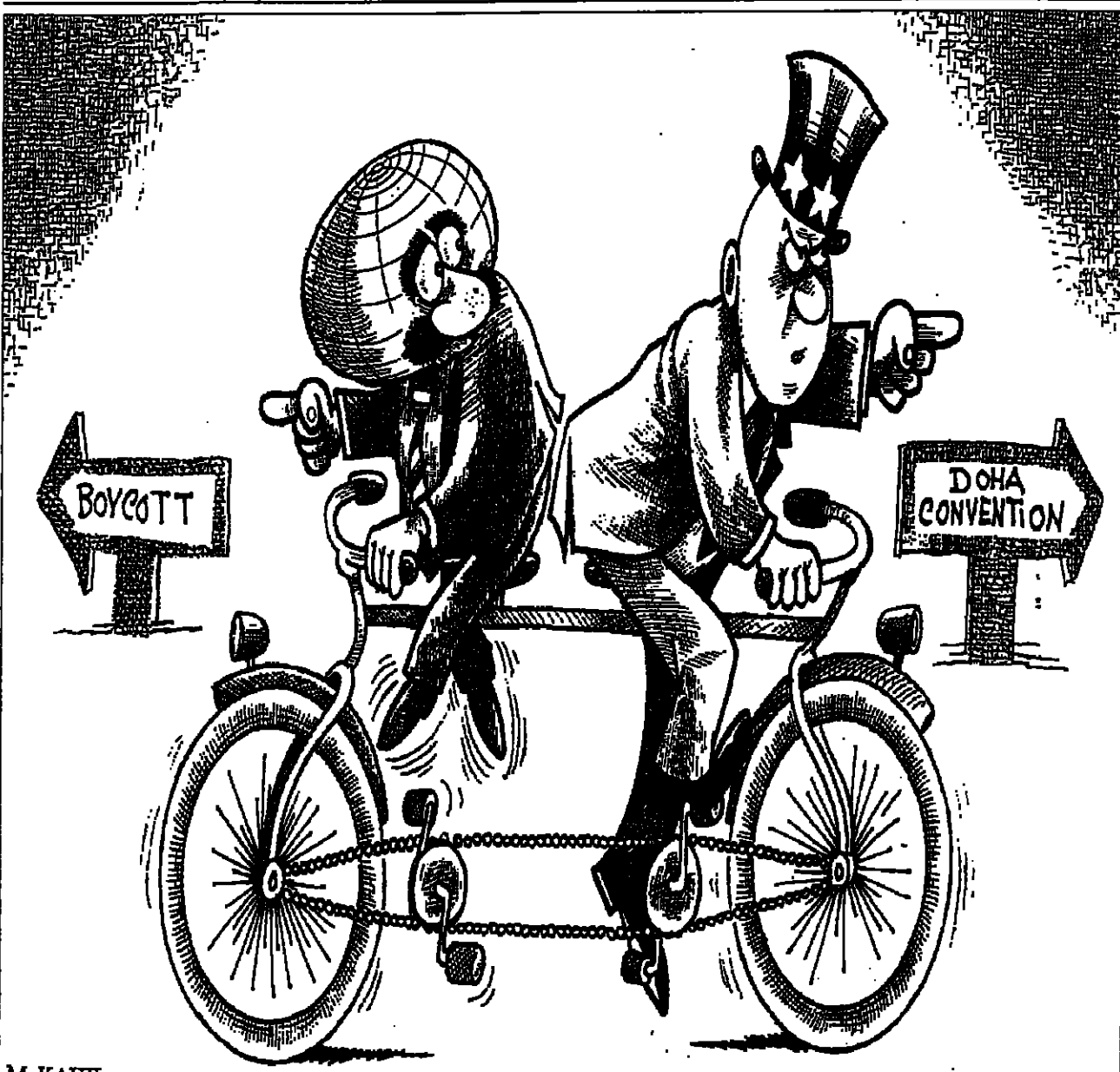
Now the world is looking at another classic case, this time in the Middle East, as Israel, with U.S. backing, takes more and more territory.

Yes, it has been a while, but circumstances point to another war in the region, most likely with the O.K. of the United States, which has stockpiled weapons for Israel's use. The stockpiling has been reported in various newspapers in the United States, including the Los Angeles Times and the Riverside Press Enterprise. And the wording said "for Israel's use."

Therefore, it makes little sense to attend any trading conferences with the Israelis until they get the message. No peace, no trade. Trading with the enemy has always been at the least foolhardy, and usually led to national suicide.

Think about it.

Shelia B. Cassidy  
Riverside Middle East Research Project  
RIVME @pacbell.net







## Jordan, Austria discuss rescheduling \$10m debt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Suleiman Hafez met in his office Wednesday with Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Philipp Hayos to discuss the rescheduling of Jordan's debt to Austria in accordance with the terms of the Paris Club.

Speaking after the meeting, the minister noted that a Jordanian delegation is currently in Vienna discussing the rescheduling process and the prospects for turning part of the debts into Austrian investment capital in Jordan.

The minister said the negotiations involve the rescheduling of the debts that amount to

\$10 million. Jordan, he said, hopes that 20 per cent of that amount, \$2 million, will be turned into investment and the rest be rescheduled.

He said despite the fact that the \$2 million amount is small compared with the amount of the debt, yet the move was bound to stimulate Austrian investments in the Kingdom.

The minister also noted that he discussed with the ambassador technical cooperation that includes, among others, Austrian help in modernising the income tax collection. He said that Austria will offer training to Jordanian personnel on these technical matters.

## Foreign firms will not be allowed to swamp Indian markets — PM

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said Wednesday that foreign companies would not be allowed to swamp Indian markets.

"We cannot let everyone come in and ruin our own industry, which was built over 50 years," Mr. Gujral told business leaders at the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The premier assured Indian industrialists that their demands for a "level playing field" would be met.

"They (foreign companies) must play on a field which is even ... so that the Indian companies are not swamped by anyone," Mr. Gujral said.

Many Indian firms say they fear that multinationalals launching joint ventures here are intent of taking control of their Indian hosts over the long-term and have asked for tighter controls to be reimposed.

Indian controls on foreign competition were eased in the early 1990s when it liberalised the economy.

Mr. Gujral added: "I have taken this viewpoint seriously and government has been of late amending laws to help protect the domestic industry."

India's liberalisation programme, which followed four decades of socialist, centralised economic planning, followed a foreign exchange crisis.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) How will you get what you need? How much is it going to cost you? Whom do you need to talk to, and whom should you avoid? Your friends and advisors are not going to be able to make up your mind for you you're going to have to do it all by yourself.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Scorpio is your sign of partnerships, in business, personal and legal matters. You don't always get along, but your skills complement each other. Your Scorpio friend is very powerful today. You might as well just do what you're told. Arguing will be pointless.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You'll get two or three times the workload you're usually assigned. You'll have to think work, breathe work, eat and sleep work for the next 48 hours. That's how long it takes for this condition to pass. It's your own fault, though. It's what you get for promising to do everything!

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You are feeling so good about yourself. It's because you know you're loved. How do you know? Somebody told you. It could be your true love or your kids. Maybe you even told yourself. The more love you feel, the more successful you'll be. Soak it up.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You'll be told exactly what to do and how to do it. You can still be the figurehead, but somebody else has the power. If you go along with this programme, you'll get the job accomplished. If you share the same goals, you might as well.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You are a powerhouse of energy. Your mind is soaking up information faster than you can even tell what it is. Use this super-human intelligence will thank you for generations to come.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) A friend needs financial assistance. This may not be as awful as it first appears. It's important to stay calm, since you're the one with the money. See if you can help this person generate another source of income, instead of depending on you. Help your friend get a job.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Magic occurs when you're in a mood like this. You're in control. Take care of the people who depend on you. Be a benevolent dictator. Reassure them that you're keeping their interests firmly in mind. That will make them feel better. Then, show them the time of their lives.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You need to wrap up the projects you've been working on. Don't let them drag on until tomorrow. You are definitely going to be busy for the next few days. Your primary objective is to alleviate as much pressure as possible. Do that by completing whatever you can, right now.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) This is a marvellous day for meetings. Everybody is in a decisive frame of mind. There's no wavering back and forth about what project to take on next. People will either love it or hate it. This is also a good day to decide what you need to buy and what you can throw away. And you'll be having fun at the very same time!

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Go along with an older person's ideas. This does not have to be a problem. There's a better chance your suggestions will be heard if you're not being confrontational. That's not always easy for you to remember, but today it will be obvious.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Wait until the afternoon to begin your next voyage. It will be even more successful then. If you have to wait until tomorrow, that's even better. If you haven't picked your costume yet, this assignment could give you a few ideas.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be especially cautious about discussing financial matters. In other words, don't. An important business deal could be hurt if the wrong information got out. There could also be complications if the right information got to the wrong people. Don't let it happen.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) It's Halloween. You don't always know if what you see is what you're going to get. Keep that in mind. If you have the feeling things are not as they appear to be, don't sign your name on the dotted line. This is one lesson you do not want to learn the hard way.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) There is more work than you can possibly do in eight hours. You couldn't do it all in 48! Why bother? Well, some of it's fun, that's why. You've promised more than you can deliver, again. Be responsible about it and do the best you can. Meanwhile, relax.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You should be in a fabulous mood. It's one of your favourite holidays. You have a rich fantasy life. Take bold steps to make one of those fantasies become reality. This involves love with a passionate person and a life-long commitment. Be ready when opportunity knocks.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) We might as well let the Scorpions have their big day. Halloween is in their honour, especially this year. Although you are a strong leader, you don't have to lead in every situation. Today, it'll be much easier to follow. Besides, you'll get more candy that way.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Nobody suspects that you can remember everything you hear. You're like a mouse in the corner. There will be some very interesting deals taking place at the Halloween party tonight. The secrets you learn now could be quite valuable later. Pay attention.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You could feel pressed financially. That's true even if you have a lot coming in. The lesson you're studying has to do with income more than outgo. When you learn how to create money, your anxieties will fade away. Don't get a counterfeiting machine; market your talents.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is your big day. Your sign rules completion, new beginnings, and Halloween! Pass along your wisdom to the others. Teach them that the choices they make now will live with them much longer than they know. Be a shining beacon of health and happiness to all around you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your work load has been increasing. It's as if the more you get done, the more other people think you can do. And they want you to do it their way! You've already done enough, in your estimation. This is pushing you beyond your limits, and that's not necessarily bad.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You are decisive and sharp, and your energy level is high. Your team is working very well together. Expect lots of activity at your place tonight. You might as well have all your friends, relatives and the neighbourhood kids over. You're in the mood to party!

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) This is a wonderful day for fantasy. It's also a pretty good time for playing with your friends. So, don't cause a problem by getting into a fight with an old adversary. Concede, gracefully. It'll be a lot easier on everybody and maintain the festive mood.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You should be feeling marvellous. You have a lot of energy, and your ability to focus is awesome. You can accomplish great things in the projects you start now. The money will be pouring in. If you don't have a booth set up for selling something, you're missing a big opportunity.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## UAE says oil revenue rose to \$14.7b in 1996

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates oil revenue rose to 54 billion dirhams (\$14.7 billion) in 1996 from 44.59 billion in 1995, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources said Tuesday.

Obaid Bin Saif Al Nasser told an investment forum that oil's contribution to the economy fell to 32.4 per cent of GDP in 1996 from 34 per cent a year earlier. He forecast oil's contribution would be 31.5 per cent in 1997 and 30.5 per cent in 1998.

The minister said UAE revenue from liquefied natural gas (LNG) rose to 6.2 billion dirhams in 1996 compared with 5.5 billion in 1995. LNG production in 1996 stood at 27.5 billion cubic metres, he said.

Nasser said 90 per cent of natural gas production was now utilised versus only eight per cent in the 1970s.

He said the UAE's "substantial" gas reserves had prompted plans to further develop the petrochemical

industry. "The UAE will build petrochemical complexes to produce polyethylene, ethylene di-chloride, caustic soda, chlorine and salt," Mr. Nasser said.

"These complexes are planned to come on stream by the end of the year 2000," he said.

The UAE currently has other petrochemical plants producing plastics, foam, fibre glass and heat insulation products.

Mr. Nasser also said the UAE planned to invest about \$3 billion over the next three to five years to develop existing plants.

The minister said oil revenues had helped the country's GDP grow by an average of 13.162 per cent from 1975 to 1995.

"During this 20 year interval, the GDP has increased from 39.635 billion dirhams in 1975 to 143.970 billion dirhams in 1995," he said.

## UAE works on laws to fight money laundering

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates is working to introduce laws to fight money laundering, which officials fear is becoming more common in the Gulf Arab state.

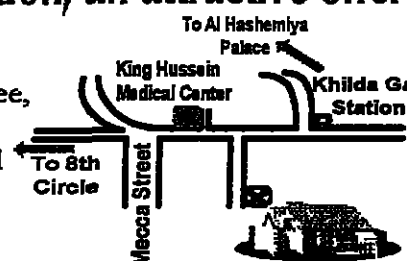
Central bankers said Wednesday a draft law had been prepared which focused on breaking the back of the process concealing the origin of illegally gained money. It will try to stop letting crime pay.

"A draft law on money laundering is being circulated through the various government departments," a Central Bank source said.

The law would define money laundering and make it a requirement for banks to report suspicious activities and give them protection in this reporting process, he told Reuters.

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## REVION INTRODUCES THE NEW CHARLIE SUN SHINE SCENT

The Abu Shaqra Trading Agency, the sole and accredited agents for Revlon in Jordan has introduced into the Jordanian market the new Charlie Sun Shine scent, considered the latest in the Charlie collection, the best and most ideal for any time, any where. Sun Shine scent is a blend of lemon, mandarin, pear and a touch of roses fragrant, the perfect women scent for the 1990s with its feminine, delicate and bright nature. Revlon company has chosen actress Karen Davy who won the admiration of the American people with her charm, wit and radiant beauty and who was rated by a foreign magazine to be one of the 50 most beautiful girls in the world to be the new Charlie scent because she is actually Charlie Sun Shine.

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

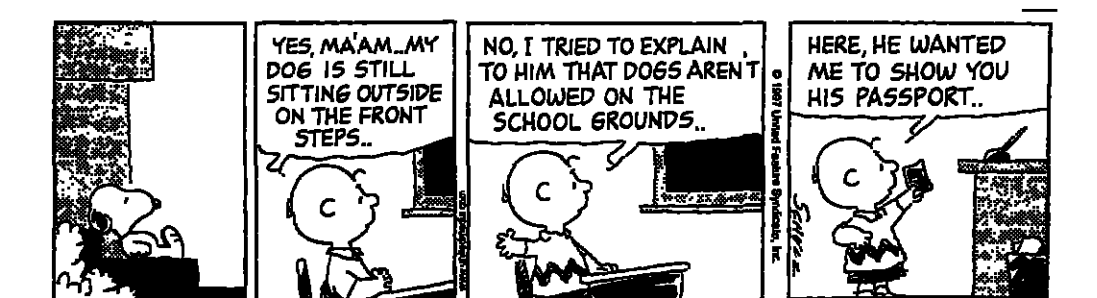
- up (summarize)
- Koppel and Turner
- Agra attire
- Nimbus
- Yankee great
- Sci-fi film
- about
- Along the midline
- Shortly
- Be thrilled by
- Actress Wray and namesakes
- Stops stuff
- Kn of cross
- Mild oath
- Donaldson
- Eve's son
- Stravinsky
- Lauder of cosmetics
- Good tidings
- John Jacob
- Church cry
- Melody
- "Miserables"
- Diner sign
- Maidens
- Gullible guy
- Aplece
- Relish
- Eaton, FL
- Flat paper
- Dam it!
- Baltic Sea
- tributary
- Bathery
- Fencing sword
- Wait
- Store sign
- "Time, Next Year" (movie)

by Kenneth Witte

DOWN

- What person?
- Pealed
- African plant
- Investor's holdings
- Lubbock's state
- Adress Moran
- Pull
- Western setting
- Condition
- Florence's river
- Fiddler's place?
- Lodging house
- Tend the children
- Swiss river
- Impulses
- Abdel Nasser
- Maltrait
- Trise
- Condemns to ruin
- British composer
- Plays the lead
- Hawk's home
- Butte's kin
- Lecher
- Coastlines
- Grating sound
- Wraps around
- Olympian deity
- Teletonic cry
- Frighten
- German city
- Town near Milan
- Chilled
- Certain tide
- Roof overhang
- Family member
- Pipe part
- up (appear suddenly)
- Envision

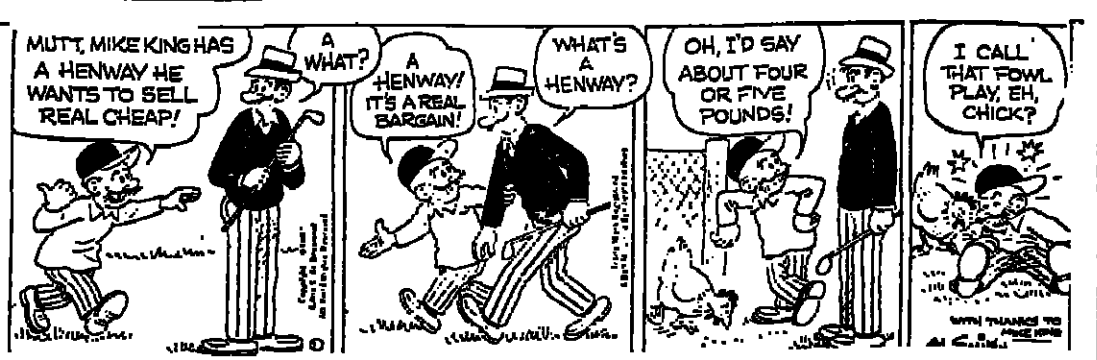
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My boss says I can start working at home two days a week—Saturday and Sunday."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOSAB

NOMUT

LOPARR

KLAYEC

Print answer here: TO

Saturday's Jumbles: BELIE LIMBO UNEASY SURELY  
Answer: What the busy reporter got from his girl friend — A "BYE" LINE



## 9

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## NBA season preview

## Bulls meet Celtics Friday

Chicago looking for 6th title in eight years

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls ended their internal squabbles and frustrations just in time to let rival clubs have one final chance at taking down a basketball dynasty.

The Bulls begin quest of their sixth National Basketball Association title in eight years on Friday at Boston after a troubled off-season that seems to be the beginning of the end of Chicago's amazing era.

"It's a bad way to end an unbelievable run," Jordan said. "You would want it to be better down the stretch, when the curtain is finally closing. But we can't worry about that."

Bulls general manager Jerry Krause gave coach Phil Jackson a one-year contract and at the same moment said it would be his last with the Bulls, saying the club needs to rebuild while on top to stay competitive.

Jordan has said he would rather retire than play for a coach other than Jackson and said he would not want to be part of a rebuilding plan. Loyal Bulls fans do not want Jordan to leave on any terms but his own.

Scottie Pippen, offered for trade in June until Jordan objected, will miss the first two months of the season after surgery on his left foot, injured in last season's semi-final victory over Miami.

Dennis Rodman, the NBA's best rebounder each of the past six years, missed the exhibition season in a contract dispute but made a last-minute deal to ensure all key members of the Bulls' past two titlists are back.

"We expect another championship. That's why we're here," Jackson said. "The five championships are great. But if we don't win this one, it means we weren't the best team this year. For some teams, making the playoffs is enough. Not for us."

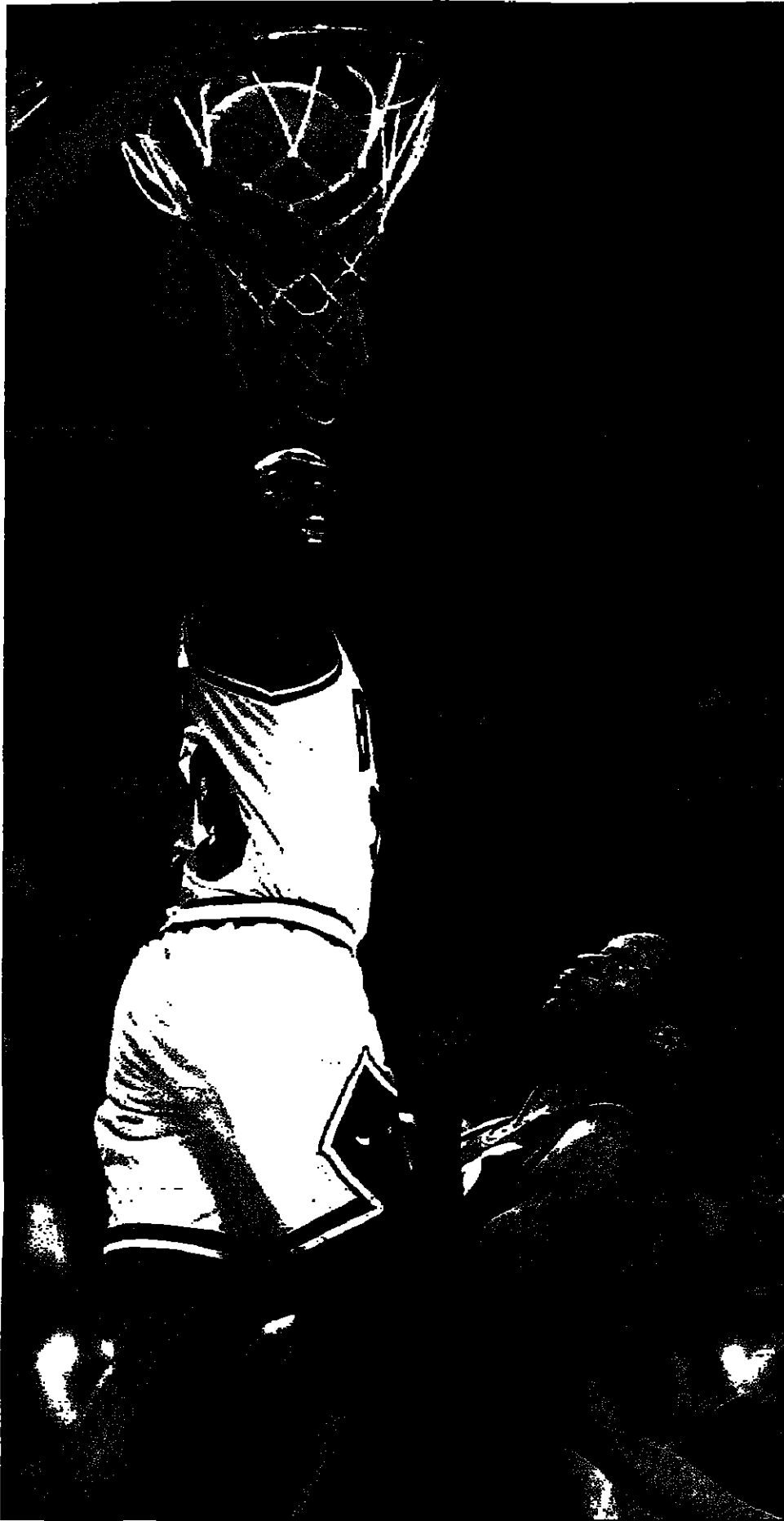
Loyalty has been a key for the Bulls, although players wonder if they are getting as much from the management as they are from each other.

"There is a sense of loyalty on this team and that's what it comes down to," Jackson said. "We're going to have fun. The challenge is to put our best foot forward on the court."

Jordan, who played ill in last season's finals against Utah, took exception when Krause said the organization should be credited with the title.

"I didn't see any organization playing sick last year so I don't agree with that," Jordan said, acknowledging the turmoil but saying it does not preclude success.

"The atmosphere is of a winning organization,"



Bulls ace Michael Jordan dunks the ball as Shawn Kemp, formerly of the Seattle SuperSonics, looks on (file photo)

Jordan said. "We're a focused team once we step on the court. It doesn't always have to be peace and harmony. The basketball court is where you win championships."

And no one has done that more than Jordan in recent years. His presence alone is enough to convince some rivals the Bulls are again unstoppable.

"Chicago is not vulnerable. There is no door open," New York coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "They have a huge mental advantage over everyone. They know they can win. They won't care as long as Jordan is there."

"They're trying to soft sell how good they're going to be. I suspect they will be a great team from day one. They will still have a dominating team with the other role players they have around Jordan."

Milwaukee coach Chris Ford even doubts this will be the last season to see Jordan with the Bulls no matter what happens to Pippen and Jackson when their contracts expire next June.

"They have all the pieces," Ford said. "As long as Michael is there and puts his will on the team, they're the ones everyone wants to

beat. I don't know if they even will break up. There's a lot of talk but Michael usually gets his way."

Larry Bird, Indiana's first-year coach and Jordan's 1992 Olympic teammate, said the Bulls are the only possible favorites until Jordan departs, an event Bird warns will diminish the entire league.

"When Jordan leaves it will change for everyone," Bird said. "He's an icon. You will never find one guy to do what he did. You will have to find a group of guys. Whatever happens, it has been a hell of a ride."

## Bird flies into NBA coaching

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Larry Bird became a basketball legend with passion by hurling himself at loose balls, defying defenders with dazzling moves to the basket or by calmly sinking a three-point shot.

Now the former Boston Celtics star brings his emotion to coaching and the National Basketball Association might never be the same.

Bird will make his NBA regular season coaching debut Friday, guiding the Indiana Pacers at New Jersey. He signed an open-ended contract worth \$4 million a year to replace Larry Brown, now at Philadelphia.

"It has been an easy transition so far," Bird said. "The players have made me proud. You never know. They might turn on me. But everything is going good now. Nothing has caught me by surprise. We have veterans. If there is a problem, they take care of it themselves."

The three-time NBA Most Valuable Player embarks on a new challenge that will test his character and determination as much as any season in his playing days. But now he can instruct and only watch others perform.

"When you are as great a player as Bird was, your patience will be very tried," Washington coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "Not many players can do what Larry Bird could do. He has to sit on the bench and learn."

Bird said he does not hold his players to the same standards he set for himself during 13 NBA seasons that produced 21,791 points, 8,974 rebounds, 5,695 assists and three NBA titles.

"These guys don't have to be like me," Bird said. "I don't expect them to

do more than they can do. Do some things I did on the court, no I don't expect that. I didn't expect my teammates to play like I did. I want them to work hard and give their best."

With a living legend as inspiration, that will not be difficult.

"How can you not learn from a guy who won three NBA titles and was a 13-time NBA All-Star?" asked "Dream Team III" guard Reggie Miller.

"You either experienced what he was doing on the court to you or you watched on television," Pacer guard Chris Mullin said. "Some guys were so good they transcended the game. That seems to me to be a good coach to have as your coach."

One thing Bird has stressed early in fitness. He watched videotapes of Indiana's 39-43 campaign last season, the first without a playoff bid in eight years, and decided to toughen his team for better finishes.

"We were up a lot of times in the first quarter," Indiana's Dutch center Rik Smits said. "We lost a lot of games in the fourth quarter."

Bird is beloved in Indiana for NBA stardom as well as a 1979 run with Indiana State University, which reached the U.S. college finals unbeaten before falling to Michigan State and future NBA nemesis Magic Johnson.

Johnson, forced to retire with the virus that causes AIDS, spent two unhappy months in 1994 coaching the Los Angeles Lakers, going 5-11 before quitting and saying his players lacked the same work ethic he had.

"When Magic coached, he still wanted to play," Bird said. "He thought he was the best player on his team. I don't

think he was ready for that.

"If he goes at it in 10 years he might be better. Magic wanted to play. He still does. He's a spur of the moment guy. I know exactly what I'm getting into."

Bird was forced to retire with the same back pain that limited his playing time at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. But he was an executive with the Celtics and kept his eye on the NBA.

"The league is a lot more watered down than when I played, so if you have a star like Michael Jordan, you rule the league," Jordan said.

His future rivals have as much respect for Bird as his players.

"Larry Bird is one of the great minds in the game," Miami coach Pat Riley said. "He was an unselfish player, an energetic player, and he will translate that to the Pacers. He will be one of the very good coaches."

Ex-Celtics teammate Chris Ford, now coaching Milwaukee, expects Bird to temper expectations with reality.

"Larry will do very well," Ford said. "He's very determined and he knows what it takes to succeed in the NBA. He will demand an awful lot from his players but he will be understanding."

And the man Bird replaced predicts a coaching fame that might rival Bird's on-court heroics.

"It will be a great run," Brown said. "If they can stay healthy, they will be a fine team. Anybody who has had the success Larry had has a player will command instant respect from the Pacers."

## Women's water polo confirmed for Sydney Olympics

SYDNEY (AFP) — Women's water polo will be included in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee said here Wednesday after a long battle spearheaded by the Australian women's team.

The announcement was made by the chairman of the IOC Coordination Commission, Jacques Rogge, at a media conference here after a three-day round of meetings to check on preparations for the Games.

The inclusion was recommended by swimming's governing body FINA and strongly supported by the Sydney Games organising committee, he said.

Several thrilled members of the Australian women's water polo team who earlier this year gatecrashed a similar meeting to protest their exclusion, were invited to the media conference Wednesday to hear the announcement.

Women's water polo was played at the Los Angeles 1984 Olympics as a demonstration sport, and the protest started in earnest in 1988 when it was omitted in favour of a synchronised swimming event, Mayer said.

The high-profile campaign for inclusion in the Games included staging a picket at Sydney Airport clad in swimming costumes, when a FINA delegation arrived for a visit.

The six teams of 11 players will be fitted in under the agreed ceiling of 10,200 athletes at the Sydney games.

Rogge declined to spell out how athlete numbers would be cut elsewhere to make room for the women but it seemed likely that FINA would have to make cuts elsewhere in its allocation.



Eintracht Trier's Rudi Thoemmes (C) celebrates with teammates Sven Teichmann (L) and Thomas Richter (R) after scoring the first goal for his team during their third round match of the German Cup. The third division club Eintracht, who had already knocked out UEFA Cup champions Schalke 04 in the first round, defeated the European Champions Dortmund 2-1 and knocked them out of the Cup (Reuters photo)

## Dortmund dismissed from Cup

COLOGNE (AFP) — European champions Borussia Dortmund crashed out of the German Cup Tuesday when they slid to an embarrassing 2-1 loss at Third Division Eintracht Trier.

And Bayern Munich defeated Kaiserslautern 2-1 in the only other German Cup match. Dortmund, having a miserable season under former Parma boss Nevio Scala, found themselves 2-0 down against their unheralded opponents after Rudi Thoemmes crashed home a 30-yard drive after 37 minutes before Marek Czakon bagged the second from the penalty spot five minutes after the break.

And although experienced defender Jurgen Kohler pulled one back with a header from an Andreas Moeller corner kick after 53 minutes, it was not enough to save the star-studded visitors before a delirious 18,000 crowd.

Dortmund pressed hard in the final half but never looked capable of equalising.

Trier, bidding for promotion to the second division and who now move into the quarter-finals, had put out UEFA Cup winners Schalke in the previous round.

"As professional footballers we were on a

hiding to nothing here," said Dortmund's sporting director and former coach Ottmar Hitzfeld ruefully.

With Dortmund just 14th in the table, they risk not qualifying for Europe next season unless they retain the Champions Cup, a tall order given their current form.

They currently lie second in their group after losing at Scala's old club Parma.

Bayern achieved both their goals from two gross mistakes by keeper Andreas Reinke who stood by and watched a third minute Christian Nerlinger distance shot fly past him into the net. On the second occasion, Reinke charged out of the area in the 77th minute, slipped and swung his boot above the loose ball. Bayern's attackers swooped and Carsten Jancker smashed the ball into an impossible corner of the net with a 20 metre swipe. "It was a terrible mistake," coach Otto Rehhagel said. "That really shouldn't be allowed to happen." Kaiserslautern's only goal came from the boot of Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza in the 25th minute.

## Two women named to referee NBA games

NEW YORK (AFP) — Look out, Charles Barkley. Get ready, Michael Jordan. The next official you argue with over a call might be a woman.

She's no lady. She's a referee. Dee Kantner and Violet Palmer were hired as National Basketball Association referees here Tuesday, becoming the first women to officiate games in a major all-male sports league.

The women completed their third year of working pre-season exhibitions and joined Rashan Michel, Rodney Mott and Derek Richardson as new additions to the NBA's

lineup of 58 referees when regular season play opens Friday.

Four NBA referee jobs were made available when George Toliver, Jess Kersey, Hank Armstrong and Mike Mathis were involved in a tax fraud scheme and resigned.

Kantner, 36, was referee supervisor for the inaugural season of the Women's NBA and has worked in major United States college conferences.

Palmer, 33, was a WNBA referee. Michel, Mott and Richardson were officials in a minor pro league last season.

CINEMA	TEL: 334144	CINEMA	TEL: 334144	CINEMA	TEL: 699238	CINEMA	TEL: 677420	CINEMA	TEL: 079 33430	CINEMA	TEL: 079 33430	Risham Yanes Theatre	TEL: 625155
PHILADELPHIA "1"		PHILADELPHIA "2"		PLAZA		CONCORD		GALLERIA 1		GALLERIA 2			
Wesley Snipes & Patrick Swayze ... in		007 GOLDEN EYE		Van Damme... in		CONCORD "1"		ABDOUN		ABDOUN		Watch out for the new play	
TO WONG FOO				DOUBLE TEAM		Tommy Lee Jones & Susan Sarandon ... in		Nicholas Cage ... in				THE GOVERNMENT	
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						(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)						OF PEOPLE	
						CONCORD "2"						Starring Hisham Yanes	
						Alec Baldwin & Kim Basinger ... in						and Amal Dabbas	
						TOO HOT TO HANDLE							
						Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only							

## SPORTS IN

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## Israeli minister apologises for Kufor Kassem massacre

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Katsav apologised to the residents of the Arab village of Kufor Kassem on Wednesday for the Israeli army's massacre of 49 of its residents in 1956.

Welcomed by a protesting crowd yelling "Go home," Mr. Katsav said those who were shot by Israeli soldiers were innocent as they did not know a curfew had been imposed on the village after the outbreak of the war of attrition with Egypt.

"I came to identify with you, to offer respect and to say that those who fell were

innocent and we are distressed and sorry," said Mr. Katsav, who is also advisor for Arab affairs to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

But Mr. Katsav could not promise the residents of the village in Galilee, northern Israel, that the dead would be classified by the government as victims of war, thereby ensuring their families would be compensated.

"The event happened during the beginning years of the establishment of Israel," Mr. Katsav told Israel Radio after his visit.

"My visit had one goal, to

offer respect to the fallen."

Israeli soldiers shot down 49 of the residents returning from work in the fields who did not know that the army had clamped a curfew on Arab villages following the outbreak of war.

Mahmoud Freij told Israel Radio he was 24 at the time and was injured in the shooting.

"I remember they shot at us and said it was a waste of bullets and they should shoot us in the heads," Mr. Freij said, not saying how he was injured. "I laid down until it was all finished and then I went back to the village."

## U.S. wants Israeli-Palestinian talks by next week — PNA

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The U.S. wants a vital round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations which have been delayed by Israel to be held by the beginning of next week, the top Palestinian negotiator said Wednesday.

Negotiator Saeb Erakat told journalists that he had been contacted by U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross to discuss the talks, which had been due to begin in Washington on Monday.

"Ross said [U.S. Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright wants the meeting to take place at the beginning of next week at the latest," Mr. Erakat said.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright expressed impatience Tuesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who delayed the high-level talks by refusing to discuss the two issues which top its agenda, agreed upon a month ago.

The talks, to be held

between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian National Authority (PNA) negotiator Mahmoud Abbas and mediated by Ms. Albright, were to focus on Palestinian demands for a halt in Jewish settlement construction and implementation of Israeli troop withdrawals in the West Bank.

Mr. Erakat said implementation of the first two stages of the scheduled three-stage troop redeployments was a "red line for us. There is no credibility for the negotiations of the whole peace process without it."

In an agreement on Hebron signed in January, Mr. Netanyahu committed to conducting the first two stages of the withdrawal from parts of the West Bank earlier this year, but they never took place.

"Even if Netanyahu hates the Oslo accords [signed by his Labour predecessors], we tell him, he signed the

Hebron agreement and he should implement it," Mr. Erakat said.

He called on the U.S. to force Israel to go ahead with the redeployments, pointing to guarantees given by former Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the January agreement.

"This is first and foremost an American responsibility. If agreements with American guarantees is not respected, how can we expect any agreements to be implemented in the future?" he said.

PNA negotiator Erakat insisted the Washington talks must deal with "all the issues," including the redeployments and Palestinian demands backed by the U.S. that Mr. Netanyahu call a halt in settlement building to allow negotiations to move forward.

Israel has said the talks must deal only with security issues.

## Israel opens parts of Hebron street amidst wide displeasure

HEBRON (AP) — Israel Wednesday partially reopened Shuhada Street, a thoroughfare that had been a flashpoint of violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

But even though the street was beautified with \$2.5 million in U.S. aid, almost no one was pleased.

Jewish settlers complained that they were being put at risk by Palestinian traffic, and the Palestinians demanded that Israel open all of Shuhada Street (Martyrs' Street) MS, at once.

Shuhada Street had been closed since the February 1994 mosque massacre in which 29 Muslim worshippers were shot to death by Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish settler and immigrant physician from New York City.

As part of the Hebron agreement that cleared the way for Israel's withdrawal from 80 per cent of the city in January, the U.S. government spent \$2.5 million on prettifying up the street — more than twice initial estimates.

The road was paved, brick sidewalks put in, a median strip with palm trees was built. There are also wrought-iron posts, turquoise trash cans and olive metal awnings.

But that hasn't impressed

Hebron's 500 Jewish settlers who fear that Palestinian traffic will increase the possibility of a terrorist attack with drive-by shootings aimed at Jewish settlement units overlooking the street or suicide car bomb attacks.

"I have never seen a palm street protect a child walking down the road," said David Wilder, spokesman for the small, extremist Jewish community in the city.

Israeli school children, some bussed in from other West Bank settlements, marched along the street singing and waving large Israeli flags while Palestinians watched from apartment windows.

Two teenaged Israelis protesting the opening held up a sign saying "keep the enemy out."

As part of the gradual opening, the Israeli military governor of Hebron, Baruch Najjar, on Wednesday allowed Palestinian civilian traffic to use a 400-metre segment of the street.

"We are opening it in stages. If the first stage goes well, without trouble, we will open the rest of the street," said Governor Najjar.

Israeli officials said Palestinian municipal vehicles can now use all of the roadway while civilian

vehicles can go from the Palestinian National Authority-controlled area to the central market. Buses and taxis will be allowed in after a few days if quiet prevails.

A sign posted on Shuhada Street said only authorised vehicles would be permitted and soldiers questioned all drivers.

The step-by-step approach was rejected by the Palestinians, and U.S. officials did not show up to celebrate the partial opening, either.

"We talked with the Israelis and Palestinians, and agreed on no ceremony," said Duncan MacInnes, spokesman for the U.S. mission in Israel. "It's open, but it's just a partial opening."

Mustafa Natsheh, the Palestinian mayor of the city of 130,000, accused Israel of keeping tensions high by failing to open the street fully for Palestinians while imposing no limits on settlers.

"We totally reject the partial opening of the street," he said. "The street must be opened without any restrictions."

Adel, a Palestinian who lives on the street, complained that many of the stores remained closed, and the street was full of heavily armed Israeli troops and settlers there.

## Russia to protect Gazprom from U.S. over Iran deal — Nemtsov

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia will protect its giant Gazprom Corporation from any U.S. moves to punish its decision to develop Iran's Southern Pars gas field, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov warned Wednesday.

"We reject all attempts to influence Russia's Gazprom, and we will protect it," said Mr. Nemtsov, a leading pro-market figure in Russia's

reform-minded government. The Southern Pars project "strengthens Gazprom's position not only on the Asian market but also on the world market," said Mr. Nemtsov, who is also energy minister.

"The Americans always stand for free trade but now they are trying to limit it," he said, referring to the U.S. Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, which calls for sanctions

against firms doing business with the two countries.

Two weeks ago the State Department said it was investigating a planned Wall Street bond offering by Gazprom because of the Russian firm's business links with Iran.

Washington has also threatened oil group Total with sanctions after the French firm and a Malaysian partner signed a \$2 billion contract to pump gas from Iran.



South African President Nelson Mandela kisses the hand of a Libyan girl Wednesday during a red carpet welcome by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in the city of Zuwara. President Mandela, who arrived in Libya for the second time in a week, presented Col. Qadhafi with South Africa's highest award, the Order of Good Hope (AFP photo)

## Britain calls on U.N., others to examine Scottish legal system

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Britain on Tuesday asked U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to send envoys to Scotland so they could evaluate the legal system that would try two Libyan suspects accused of blowing up a Pan-Am airliner over Lockerbie in 1988.

British Ambassador Sir John Weston followed up on a formal announcement from Foreign Secretary Robin Cook who said the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League were all asked to send high-level representatives to Scotland to examine the fairness of the judiciary.

Mr. Weston said he asked Mr. Annan to send two envoys before the end of the year to visit a Scottish prison and court facilities and to discuss trial arrangements.

Libya has refused to hand over to Britain and the United States two alleged intelligence agents indicted in both countries for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in which 270 people died.

But Libya, under U.N. air, arms and diplomatic sanctions, has received considerable support from African and Arab nations for its proposal to send the suspects for trial to a third country but with Scottish judges.

Other punitive measures imposed on Libya include an arms embargo and a ban on importing equipment for the oil industry.

Most recently, South

African President Nelson Mandela said justice could not "seen to be done" if a country was complainant, prosecutor and judge at the same time. He visited Libya on his way to a Commonwealth conference and is currently headed back there.

Asked about the timing of the offer, Mr. Weston said the Lockerbie controversy had been raised at a special Security Council ministerial meeting on Africa in September with the implication by some speakers that Scottish justice was biased.

He said the British government was anxious to show it was doing everything possible to meet claims "that somehow there was something unfair or prejudiced about Scottish justice."

In September, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Salim Ahmad Salim, the secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said it was time to find a solution to the sanctions.

But Mr. Weston said there was no change in Britain's demand that there could only be a trial if Libya gave up the two suspects for trial in Scotland.

Libya has defied the air embargo several times, sending Libyans by air to perform the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has also flown to Egypt and Chad for meetings.

## Mandela bestows award on Qadhafi

ZUWARAH (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela bestowed South Africa's highest award on Colonel Muammar Qadhafi here on Wednesday but also called publicly for moderation from the firebrand Libyan leader.

In a brief speech at a stadium in this Mediterranean town halfway between the Libya-Tunisian border and the Libyan capital Tripoli, Mr. Mandela did not make any direct reference to the Lockerbie crisis between Libya and the West.

But he called on all countries to support the efforts of the United Nations.

Libya has been under a U.N. arms and air embargo since 1992 for its refusal to hand over for trial two Libyans suspected of blowing up a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 270 people.

Mr. Mandela, during a visit to Tripoli last week, called for a lifting of the sanctions imposed on Libya and said the Lockerbie case should be handled by an international tribunal and not the British or U.S. legal system — a view shared by the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League.

"We have created a body, the U.N., that is doing a magnificent job," Mr. Mandela said here Wednesday before bestowing South Africa's highest award, the Order of Good Hope, on Col. Qadhafi.

"It calls upon all its members to settle their differences by peaceful means and this means that leaders must spread the message of peace in the whole world, especially in developing countries," Mr. Mandela said.

"And they must, whatever their positions are on certain issues, be moderate and get together peacefully to reduce tension and violence," he said.

He said he was presenting Col. Qadhafi with the order of good hope to thank him for his role in forging friendship between the South African and Libyan peoples and Libya's backing for the struggle against apartheid.

In comments directed at Col. Qadhafi, the South African president added: "It is important to understand the importance of moderation in long-term. I'm confident that my brother leader will hear my heartfelt advice."

Mr. Mandela, who discussed the Lockerbie case at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh before coming here by road from Tunisia, met privately with Col. Qadhafi for only about 10 minutes.

At a press conference following Mr. Mandela's departure, Col. Qadhafi said: "I accept the advice from President Mandela but I want to tell him that we are facing the attempts of certain imperialist countries to impose their hegemony."

## Russian foreign minister raises hostage issue in Yemen

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, meeting Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Amman on Tuesday, sought information about four Russians being held hostage by a Yemeni tribe, Interfax said.

According to a Russian Foreign Ministry press report, "President Saleh assured him that the Yemeni authorities will adopt additional measures to have the Russians freed within the next few days."

The Russian minister, touring the Middle East, thanked Mr. Saleh for his promised assistance, which will "undoubtedly be duly appreciated in Moscow," the report says.

Mr. Primakov also inquired about the case of a Russian businessman who was stranded at the Russian embassy in Sanaa and barred by the Yemeni authorities from leaving the country because of charges of financial impropriety he faces.

## With Rabin anniversary looming, Israelis expecting more killings

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli politicians and academics warned Wednesday of the potential for new political assassination just as the country prepares for the two-year anniversary of the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

An opinion poll released Wednesday by Israel Radio ahead of the Nov. 4 anniversary of Rabin's slaying found that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was considered the most likely public figure to be assassinated today.

Yossi Sarid, leader of the fiercely secular left-wing Meretz Party, was number two on the list and Rabin's successor as Labour prime minister, Shimon Peres, third, according to the survey carried out for the radio by Panorama Marketing.

Commenting on the poll, Mr. Sarid said that although the right-wing extremist who shot Rabin is serving a life sentence in jail, right-wing politicians who fuelled anti-government incitement before the murder still wander free.

"There are tens of thousands of citizens who don't respect this democracy and one of them is sure to stand up again one day and do the same thing," Mr. Sarid told Israel Radio.

Rabin's murder did not prevent another assassination, it encouraged one," said Mr. Sarid, whose party was a member of the Rabin government which signed the Oslo peace accords with the Palestine Liberation Organisation between 1993 and 1994.

Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, said he acted to halt the government's policy of granting autonomy to Palestinians in territory claimed part of Israel by religious Jews.

Mr. Sarid said the survey results broadcast Wednesday represent "something new for Netanyahu."

"Netanyahu no doubt played a role in worsening the atmosphere against Rabin before his murder, and now he is one of the ones threatened," he said.

Although Mr. Netanyahu has effectively halted the implementation of the Oslo peace accords, many right-wing Israelis have expressed anger at his agreement to withdraw troops in January from

part of the West Bank city of Hebron and to consider the transfer of other territory to Palestinian rule.

Left-wing groups have also been escalating demonstrations against Mr. Netanyahu in recent days, calling on him to resign to save the country from war as his right-wing policies have deadlocked the peace process with the Palestinians.

Science Minister Michael Eitan warned Mr. Netanyahu during a cabinet meeting on Sunday about alleged left-wing incitement against the prime minister that could lead to attempts on his life.

Nahum Ben-Yehuda, a sociology professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said recent developments and Wednesday's poll results showed that two years after Rabin's assassination, the tragedy had failed to stem the likelihood of new political violence.

Many right-wing extremists concluded that the murder's apparent success in halting the peace process "proves that violence pays off," he added.

## Judge frees blind driver after miracle

ROME (R) — An Italian judge has dismissed fraud charges against a registered blind man with a driver's licence after he claimed he had been miraculously cured at the Roman Catholic shrine at Lourdes in south-west France. The 29-year-old man, whose name was withheld, was freed by a court in the central town of Perugia, after he said he had regained his sight during a visit to Lourdes, the Unita newspaper reported on Tuesday. The man, who was employed as a telephonist under a state programme to help the blind, said he had made a special trip to Lourdes on December 13, the feast day of Saint Lucia, the patron saint of the blind.

## Spy hole for 'client safety,' says owner

BERGISCHE GLADBACH (AFP) — A spy hole allowing a German shop owner to secretly watch clients using his tanning studio was only a "security measure" to make sure they didn't faint, the peeping proprietor explained to authorities after being caught. His undoing came in the shape of a 24-year-old woman using the studio who, after puzzling over why there would be a mirror in the room, came back armed with a screwdriver. A few minutes later she discovered that the mirror was in fact, a one-way glass with a small hole allowing a perfect view of the room — and the occupant.

## Hitler watercolour sells for \$7,300

BRIGG (AFP) — A watercolour painting believed to have been painted by Adolf Hitler in 1916 was sold to an anonymous buyer for \$7,300 at an auction here Tuesday. The painting, signed "A. Hitler," reached five times its estimated value. "We had a lot of interest," said Robert Horner, auctioneer manager for auctioneers Dickinson Davy and Markham. "There is really no way to value this sort of thing," he said. The painting, which was put on the market by an anonymous seller in southeast Britain, shows the Belgian town of Ypres after its bombardment in World War I.

## London arch could be used to house homeless

LONDON (AFP) — Admiralty Arch, one of London's most elegant buildings, could be used to provide shelter for homeless people this winter, the government said Tuesday. Part of the building, which lies between Trafalgar Square and The Mall, will be offered to a charity for the homeless to provide temporary accommodation for up to 60 people who would otherwise be living rough. A planning application has been submitted and if successful it is hoped the shelter could be ready in time for December.

## Wartime memoirs book wins Leutaud Literary Prize

PARIS (AFP) — French writer Francois Thibault won the 13th Annual Paul Leutaud Literary Prize for his novel "Notre Dame Des Ombres" recounting the wartime memories of a child whose father was executed for his work in the French Resistance. The novel has been widely acclaimed here for its sensitivity and its rich writing style. It is set in southwestern France during World War II when the young hero's father, the leader of an underground resistance group called Notre Dame Des Ombres (Our Lady of the Shadows), is shot by a firing squad of the Vichy collaborationist regime.